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Judge booked fatal trip in his own name

King calls crisis talks on new terror wave

From Richard Ford

The investigation into the Provisional IRA's murder of Northern Ireland's second most senior judge and his wife is understood to have discovered that they booked a ferry passage in their own name and title.

The booking was made four months ago with a travel agent in Northern Ireland and was a lapse in personal security by the judge, who like the rest of the province's judiciary are targets for terrorists.

A security source described the travel arrangements of Lord Justice Maurice Gibson, aged 73, and his wife Cecily as "suicidal". He added: "They used their own name and title. It was as if he wanted everybody to know he was on the ferry."

All members of the Northern Ireland judiciary are warned not to go to the Irish Republic and Sir Maurice knew the dangers; in 1981 at the height of the hunger strike his holiday home in County Donegal needed Garda protection when it was picketed by republicans, and three years later it was burnt to the ground in a Provisional IRA attack.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland,

will meet his security advisers this morning for crisis talks on the wave of terrorism which culminated with the Provisional IRA's weekend killing of the judge and his wife, who died when a 300 lb car bomb exploded as they drove past a booby-trapped car shortly after crossing the border into Northern Ireland early on Saturday morning.

Mr King will also discuss the weekend murder of a full-time Ulster Defence Regiment soldier.

An upsurge in terrorism across the province has claimed the lives of 31 people

Leading article.....15

this year — more than half the total for the whole of 1986.

Mr King in particular will want to know whether there is confirmation that Sir Maurice booked his return journey from Britain to Dun Laoghaire under his own name and title at a Northern Ireland travel agent in January or whether there was a leak from within the security forces on either side of the border.

Among other questions he will ask the General Officer Commanding in Northern Ireland and Sir John Harmon, the Chief Constable of the RUC, who has cut short a private visit in North America to return to the province, is why the RUC guard was not at the border crossing at Killeen, County Down, to meet the Garda escort that had brought Sir Maurice to the north; and why no check had been carried out on a blue Ford Cortina car with English number plates which had been left packed with explosives ready for detonation as the judge's Ford Escort passed.

Mr King said yesterday he

had no evidence that a mole within the Garda had supplied the information to the Provisional IRA and he accused the men making that claim, the Unionist leaders, Mr James Molyneux and Mr Ian Paisley, of trying to "stir up hatred and distrust".

The allegation was angrily denied by Mr Brian Lenihan, the Irish Republic's Minister for Foreign Affairs, who described it as "mischievous". He added: "It does not help in any way. The Garda provided excellent security cover for Lord Justice Gibson and his wife from their landing in Dun Laoghaire."

The Garda were only informed on Thursday night that the judge would be going through the port.

Sir Maurice crossed the border on Saturday shortly before 8.40 am. He had stopped to shake hands with his Garda escort. Then with his wife at the wheel of the car they drove into Northern Ireland at the end of a short holiday in France.

His RUC guard was not at the crossing and he had driven half a mile when members of the Provisional IRA's South Armagh Brigade, watching from a hilltop, detonated the explosive. His car was hurled across the border into the path of a vehicle containing three Ireland rugby players.

The car was a ball of fire and the judge and his wife were burnt beyond recognition and were only identified through dental records.

The explosion occurred in an area known as "no man's land", where the RUC are forced to vary their tactics when assigned to escort duties.

Sir Maurice, like all mem-

Continued on page 20, col 6



The Princess of Wales boarding an RAF jet with her god-daughter, Maria, the Marquis of Douro's four-month-old daughter, in Granada after the visit to Spain with Prince Charles. They had spent the weekend at the Andalusian estate of the Duke of Wellington

Inquiry to ask about ferry load

From David Sapsted
Zeebrugge

Heavy lorries in the bow of the Zeebrugge disaster ferry may have exaggerated the nose-down position of the vessel as it approached the open sea with its bow doors open.

The inquiry which opens in London today will hear that tests have been carried out on a scale model of the Herald of Free Enterprise to check whether incorrect loading of heavy vehicles could have contributed to the disaster.

A leading marine research establishment has been working on the theory that the bow doors being open and the bow being trimmed down by ballast were not sufficient explanation of the speed of the disaster.

Mr Alan Rodgers of Cheltenham, a lorry driver who was on board the ship when it capsized, told *The Times* last night that because the Herald's bow was trimmed down to enable vehicles to be loaded the crew had delayed loading lorries because they were concerned that too many in the stern the bow would have risen.

"I believe that when the crew realized that the lorries already loaded into the stern were pushing the bow up they stopped putting lorries on and put cars on instead. That would leave the lorries until last," he said.

The head of the salvage team said the weekend attempt to refloat the ship was thwarted because most of the vehicles were at the bow.

Crucial four hours, page 20

Tebbit mobilizes candidates for all-out poll win

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Conservative Party candidates in the forthcoming general election were urged yesterday to work to give the Prime Minister another conclusive majority to enable the revolution of the Thatcher years to be carried forward.

The candidates told their party leaders to fight a bold election campaign on a radical, forward-looking manifesto and not be afraid to spell out its detailed plans for a third term of office.

The Conservative leadership and candidates met in Birmingham in a mood of considerable confidence, expecting an election in June and buoyed by the first opinion poll since Easter which showed them with a lead of 11 per cent over Labour and apparently on course for a big majority.

Mr Norman Tebbit, the Conservative Party chairman, addressing the 180 candidates in private yesterday, carefully avoided giving any hint about the exact timing of the election.

But like Mrs Margaret Thatcher at the same gathering on Saturday Mr Tebbit impressed on the candidates the need to maximize the Conservative majority.

Mrs Thatcher on Saturday told the candidates that there was much to be done in a third term. She said that the Government was not running out of steam and she urged them to go out and sell its achievements.

Yesterday Mr Tebbit issued

Chirac points to danger in Moscow offer

By Andrew McEwan, Diplomatic Correspondent

The Prime Minister of France, M Jacques Chirac, said yesterday that Mr Gorbachev's offer to eliminate all shorter range missiles from Europe "may be dangerous".

His reaction, which came after a meeting with Mrs Margaret Thatcher, was the first by a European leader since the Soviet General Secretary made his surprise offer to Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State.

Although M Chirac was careful to emphasize that it was a personal view, not his government's official position, he appeared to be leaning towards rejection of Mr Gorbachev's offer.

After a meeting lasting nearly four hours with Mrs Thatcher at Chequers he said there was "no substantial difference between the British and French point of view" on arms control issues. He added that there were "very few differences".

Mrs Thatcher's aides who listened to his remarks agreed that he had accurately portrayed the meeting. But they declined to clarify whether that meant that the Prime Minister too thought that the Gorbachev proposal was potentially dangerous.

She has been careful not to show her hand at this stage. Her remarks on the continuing need for nuclear weapons for the foreseeable future, after her Moscow visit, do not necessarily mean that she would reject the elimination of shorter range weapons. The Prime Minister, in common with practically all western leaders, believes a deal to eliminate medium range weapons to be in Europe's best interests: the question is whether to extend that to

missiles in the 300 to 600-mile range category, in which the Soviet Union has superiority.

M Chirac said that the elimination of such weapons "would weaken the deterrent in Europe". He added: "The best way would probably be to have a deal where we have the same number of missiles in the shorter range." Although he did not say so directly, it was clear that he feared

Photograph.....2

Nato at risk.....3

elimination could undermine the strategy of flexible response.

He appeared to be supporting the original American draft proposal at the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (Start) in Geneva. Washington proposed a freeze on numbers of Soviet shorter range missiles with a right for American numbers to be increased to the same level.

Mr Gorbachev took the West by surprise during Mr Shultz's Moscow visit by offering to scrap all European missiles in that category.

M Chirac said it had been decided no formal positions would be taken up until the offer had been fully discussed among European governments. That was confirmed by Mrs Thatcher's aides.

M Chirac emphasized the need for a "coherent and coordinated" European answer. His talks with Mrs Thatcher were the first in a series of European consultations.

The next step will be a meeting today in Luxembourg of representatives of the seven-nation Western European Union.

Snooker chief told to resign by MP

By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent

Mr Colin Moynihan, the Conservative MP for Lewisham East, yesterday called on Mr Rex Williams to resign as chairman of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association because he has admitted taking beta-blockers.

Mr Moynihan said that if Mr Neal Foulds, aged 23, another leading snooker player who has also admitted taking the drug for a heart condition at the world championship in Sheffield, is "too sick" to compete without taking beta-blockers he should "lay down his cue".

Mr Moynihan, a former member of the Sports Council Drug Advisory Group, asks: "Would Rex Williams encourage all up and coming sportsmen to take beta-blockers because of the pressures of the

life that they lead. If so he should resign."

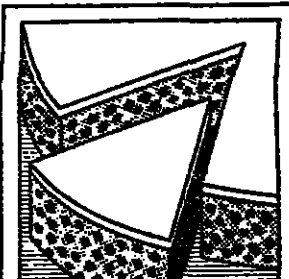
Both Mr Williams and Mr Foulds say that they have been given beta-blockers under medical guidance. The use of the drug is banned by the International Olympic Committee and the Sports Council. Shooters and archers have used them to slow the heartbeat and reduce tremble.

The WPBSA does not outlaw the drug if it is accompanied by a doctor's certificate.

Mr Moynihan, who won an Olympic silver medal for rowing, said that contrary to reports published on Saturday he does not advocate the Government withdrawing money from the Sports Council which subsidizes drug testing.

Championship report, page 36

Inside



Shares of the cake

Privatization has given ordinary people an unprecedented stake in some of our biggest companies. With Rolls-Royce about to go to the market, *The Times* begins a three-part series by talking to the new breed of shareholders; and we show how the major issues have leapt in value

Page 12

Threat to poll

President Jayewardene announced that unless Sri Lanka's terrorist situation improved within two years he would extend Parliament by referendum instead of holding a general election.

Bid to split militants, page 10

Portfolio

● The £8,000 weekly prize in *The Times* Portfolio Gold competition was won by Mr R J Pritchard of Leominster, Herefordshire.

● Saturday's £4,000 daily prize was won by Mrs B Side of Chislehurst, Kent. Details page 3.

● There is a further £4,000 to be won today. Portfolio list page 24.

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Rival officers ruin drugs ring trap

By Tony Dawe

A drugs operation has been bungled and the ringleaders of a cocaine-smuggling gang allowed to escape because of increasingly bitter rivalry between police and Customs.

The disastrous operation is the worst blunder so far since relations between the two agencies became so strained that many in the front line say "open warfare" has broken out.

Customs' highly-trained "H" team, created to catch cocaine traffickers, was in position at Heathrow Airport last weekend waiting to arrest two smugglers en route from South America via Paris and their contacts. Colleagues were standing by, ready to raid several London addresses.

But the entire operation collapsed because Scotland Yard detectives flew to Paris and alerted the French authorities, who arrested the two couriers. The result is that the men are now before the French courts, where they are likely to be treated more leniently than in Britain, and no other arrests have been made.

Customs chiefs and senior detectives are now conducting a post mortem into the incident, which is the latest in a long line of rows between the services.

Last night, Mr John Wheeler, MP, a member of the Commons select committee which has studied Britain's drug crisis, said he would raise the incident with the heads of both services.

Information about possible suspects and about undercover operations is supposed to be logged with the National Drugs Intelligence Unit, based at Scotland Yard and including provincial policemen and Customs investigators as well as Metropolitan Police officers.

Meetings were planned between the Yard and Customs teams over the latest operation but had been postponed when the case came to a head.

Both services suspected that Terence Brett, aged 46, from Chingford, Essex, and Kenneth O'Rourke, aged 34, from East London, had flown to Colombia to buy cocaine from a local crime syndicate and planned to distribute it through an East London gang.

Customs cocaine team "H", led by Mr Roy Stoddart, prepared its plans for picking up the men and their contacts and raiding the homes of gang leaders in the East End.

Members of the team were stunned when Mr Hugh Donachie, the leader of another cocaine team, received a call from a French Customs contact asking about the presence of the Scotland Yard detectives at Charles de Gaulle Airport. The Yard men were apparently planning to fly with the suspects to Heathrow, follow them through the airport to a "police ambush".

But the French Customs, alerted by the presence of the

Continued on page 20, col 6

More Afrikaner dons rebel

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The revolt of the Afrikaner intelligentsia has spread to Potchefstroom University in south-western Transvaal, the centre of the most conservative academic political thought in South Africa.

A group of 46 of the university's academics, including seven professors, released a statement at the weekend announcing that they would boycott the whites-only general election on May 6.

They asked how they could make part when "our country is burning, basic human rights are abused and we are forbidden by law from protesting against that." They also declared that "no meaningful reform for a fairer division of political rights is taking place."

government reforms are just a modernizing of apartheid, and time is running out in the search for peaceful solutions."

The Potchefstroom rebellion is in its way even more startling than the earlier decision by 300 academics at Stellenbosch University, in the Western Cape, which has always been in the vanguard of Afrikaner thinking, to support independent candidates in the election.

Potchefstroom, founded in 1838 by Andries Potgieter, the Voortrekker leader, was for a time the capital of the old Transvaal Republic. Academics at the university there propagated a particularly virulent form of Afrikaner nationalism.

What prompted the Potchefstroom academics to make their disaffection public at this particular moment is not clear. Theirs is the biggest, but not the first, expression of no-confidence in the Government at the more conservative of the Afrikaans-speaking universities.

Attempts to drum up academic backing for President Botha have largely failed. A plan to make public an appeal for support for the Government when he addressed an election meeting in the town hall of Stellenbosch last week had to be abandoned because so few academics were prepared to sign it.

Zambia raid, page 8

British breakthrough in treating heart disease

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

An alternative to heart transplants, and one which avoids the risks of rejection and the costs of relying on donor organs, has succeeded in laboratory research.

The breakthrough comes with the development of a way of forming a new heart pump from muscle tissue taken from the upper part of the back of the individual needing treatment.

Experiments performed in beagle dogs show that those muscle pumps can take over from a congenitally defective or failing diseased heart.

The new heart pump constructed in each of six beagles was formed under the skin of the left chest wall. The dogs moved about freely, and the device worked for up to two months without complications.

The advance depends on discoveries by Dr Stanley Salmons, at Birmingham University Medical School, on how to transform the type of muscle tissue needed for the control of the arm and shoulder movement to that needed for short but powerful pulses of the heartbeat.

In a beagle, fabrication of a new heart pump, which the scientists call a skeletal muscle ventricle, was done at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, by doctors working with Professor Larry Stephenson, the heart surgeon.

Earlier attempts failed to repair human heart muscle damage by replacement with a self-graft from tissue from another part of the body. From analysis of different types of muscle fibre, Dr Salmons devised a

way of re-training the tissue.

The transformation begins by first giving the strip to be used as a graft a "rest" for four to six weeks. That means disconnecting the vessels which stimulate the muscle but retaining a good supply of blood circulation. The strip is shaped into two chambers, resembling cavities of the heart, each 80 mm long and with a volume of 20 millilitres.

After the rest period, the muscle pump is connected to the blood circulation system. The muscle fibre is stimulated by a normal pacemaker, used to regulate the heart in other conditions, until the natural rhythm of the heart is established.

The advantage over the experimental mechanical heart is that a natural muscle needs no external

source of power, once it has settled into its natural pumping routine.

Details of the work are described in the latest issue of the journal *Science*. Yesterday, Dr Salmons was applying for research grants to support studies of the intricate biochemical and electrical behaviour of muscle cells.

He said muscle tissue grafts have now been applied successfully to patch defects in a heart. But he described those grafts as passive repairs. He believed an active new heart pump made from a patient's own tissue could be a routine procedure in about five years' time.

It would be used for patients who suffered from long-term heart failure, diseases of heart muscle and in some children who have congenital defects.

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NEWS SUMMARY

Million sell stake in British Gas

More than a million small investors have sold their shares in British Gas since it was privatized last November and the public stake in the company has slumped from an initial 60 per cent to 28 per cent, it was disclosed yesterday.

Mr Tony Blair, a Labour Treasury spokesman, said it was the "quickest exodus from privatization yet".

But Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, said that with more than three million people still retaining shares, the flotation had been a "marvellous success".

Threat to railway

Industrial action over pay is threatening to disrupt the 150-year-old Ffestiniog Railway.

The 45 National Union of Railwaymen members working the 13½-mile Gwynedd rail link with Portmadoc are seeking an improvement on an imposed 2 per cent pay rise. A ballot has already shown overwhelming support for action.

The railway company says it had no transport subsidy. It carried 20,000 fewer passengers last year because of the Chernobyl disaster and poor weather.

Drinks change

Five hundred restaurants will be serving customers free champagne next weekend to celebrate the first relaxation in British licensing laws for 70 years.

From Saturday restaurants are allowed to serve alcohol with meals throughout the afternoon, as a result of the Licensing (Restaurant Meals) Act which passed all its readings in the House of Commons virtually without opposition at the end of February.

It is thought that it could eventually create an additional 25,000 jobs.

Suicide 'bogus'

Ian Brady, the moors murderer, may have planned a bogus suicide to convince doctors of his insanity, it was claimed yesterday.

Nurses believed he may have been going to kill himself by electric shock when they found wiring and a coat-hanger in his room.

But an insider at Park Lane maximum security hospital, Liverpool, said yesterday: "If Brady really wanted to kill himself he would have made a much better job of concealing the equipment. He does things like this to perpetuate the myth of his insanity."

Britain 'in crisis'

Mrs Margaret Thatcher should be declaring a state of emergency, not calling a general election, the shop-workers' union conference was told yesterday.

Mr Syd Tierney, in his USDAW presidential address in Blackpool said Britain was no longer a "super-power" on defence. He claimed that the Conservative record showed bankruptcies, crime, and the numbers on supplementary benefit at their highest levels. A world trade deficit for manufacturing goods would reach £8 billion this year.

Victims named

Police yesterday named three people killed in a motorway accident.

They were Mr Liberato Balzano, aged 21, of Ainsworth Street, Cambridge; Mary Sabani, aged 19, of Elizabeth Street, Cambridge; and Margaret McLeish, aged 40, of Back Lane, Peterborough.

Two of the victims were killed on Saturday night when their car struck the central reservation barrier on the M11 near Stansted, in Essex.

The driver of a car was killed as he swerved to avoid the bodies and debris in the road, and crashed.

Man dead in cell

A man accused of the murder of a Sunderland security guard has been found hanging in his Durham prison cell.

Louis Longstaff, aged 27, of Aberdare Road, Farrington, Sunderland, was jointly charged with Neil Donnelly, aged 24, of no fixed address, with the murder of Kevin Tomlinson, aged 26, of Beatrice Street, Roker, Sunderland.

Longstaff, who died on Saturday, had been recommended in custody by Sunderland magistrates.

Tate looks to Getty

Trustees of the Tate Gallery are confident that John Constable's London masterpiece, "The Opening of Waterloo Bridge", can be saved for Britain.

They believe Mr John Paul Getty II will make up the £430,000 shortfall on the £2.9 million tax-reduced price being sought by its owner, Mrs Betty Sheldon.

The deadline for raising the outstanding £430,000 has been extended by four weeks, and Mr Getty is not expected to confirm any decision until satisfied all other sources have been tried and exhausted.

New anti-terrorist measures for EEC

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

New ways to track down terrorists operating in Europe are to be recommended at a meeting of Common Market Interior and Justice Ministers in Brussels tomorrow.

Police throughout Europe are to be told to pass on details of any threats or uncovered caches of firearms and explosives which have terrorist connections, to all EEC capitals on a new secure communications network.

Counter-terrorist officials met last week to draw up the agenda for the EEC Ministers of the so-called Trevi Group, which will include Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary.

A dossier on all known terrorist leaders and gun-runners is already held by EEC police after a Trevi Group decision last year to co-ordinate information.

A secure facsimile "hot line" was set up so that intelligence information of terrorist activities and movements could be relayed quickly to every European capital.

Tomorrow's meeting of Trevi Ministers is expected to approve the recommendation

that all terrorist-related arms thefts should be included in the dossier.

Most European Intelligence services are not convinced there is a co-ordinated terrorist "high command" in Europe. But it is known that there are links between some of the organizations and there is a degree of arms-swapping.

Criminals engaged in weapons thefts are increasingly selling into the terrorist market.

The Trevi Group is also expected to call for tighter checks at border points on travellers supposedly licensed to carry guns.

Other methods to increase European counter-terrorist co-operation to be discussed will include:

- Immediate exchange of information on the secure hot line about any person prevented from entering an EEC country on grounds of suspected terrorist involvement.

- A possible conference in Britain in October of aviation security officials to pool information on screening methods at airports.

Hoskyns proposes radical change in Whitehall

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Ministers should be backed by a new system of executive offices drawing on experts inside and outside the Civil Service as the first step towards a radical overhaul of the Whitehall machine, according to a study being sent to the Prime Minister and other party leaders in advance of the general election.

The proposals, drawn up by a group led by Sir John Hoskyns, director general of the Institute of Directors and former head of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Downing Street policy unit, are put forward as a means of improving the service and expertise available to ministers.

They are based on the French cabinet system, and Sir John's Reskilling Government group recommends in a report published today that they should be set up immediately after the election in nine government departments.

Ministers would have "enhanced private offices" of between six and eight people comprising political appointees to help them with their constituency and party work and experts, drawn from young high-flyers with the Civil Service and capable outsiders, to advise them on key departmental issues.

Health risk alert for men aged over 40

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Middle-aged men on low incomes are three times more likely to report frequent illness than those on the highest incomes according to a survey published today.

The survey, commissioned by the Health Promotion Research Trust, and covering a random sample of 9,000

adults, also shows that unemployed people aged 40 and over are nearly twice as likely to report frequent ill health than those of similar ages with jobs.

Nearly one in three of all respondents said that they suffered from a long-standing illness or disability. Nearly a third of all men, aged 40-59, in households on incomes less than £340 per month, said that

they were often ill compared with 11.6 per cent in households on £396 or more per month.

Fifteen per cent of employed men, aged between 40 and 64, said that they had high rates of illness compared to 27 per cent of unemployed males. The difference disappeared however in younger people. Twelve per cent of employed men, between 18 and 39,

declared that they were frequently ill compared to 11 per cent of unemployed males. At all ages, women report higher rates of illness than men and also take more prescribed medicines than men.

The report, based on a questionnaire survey carried out by researchers at Cambridge University in 1984/85, compares clinical measure-

ments, such as blood pressure and lung function, with people's perceptions of their own health.

High blood pressure levels, associated with heart disease, were found in the North-west, Yorkshire and Wales.

The Health and Lifestyle Survey: The Health Promotion Trust, Assay House, 17 Elveton Street, London SW1, 6LS

Midlands is barometer to the Tory poll hopes

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

When Mrs Thatcher and her most trusted advisers gather at Chequers on May 10 to study the local election results and probably decide the date of the general election, the outcome of voting in the Midlands will be at the forefront of their consideration.

The Midlands is packed with marginal seats, and for the Labour Party vital to its minimum target of preventing the Conservatives gaining an overall majority for their third term.

Four of the first eight seats on Labour's "hit-list" of targets are in the East Midlands. Leicester South, with its Tory majority of seven votes, is number one on the Labour list, followed by Nottingham North (third), Sherwood (fifth) and Leicester East (eighth).

The area contains other seats in Labour's top fifty targets: Nottingham East (17), Amber Valley (43), Corby (44) and Derby North (47).

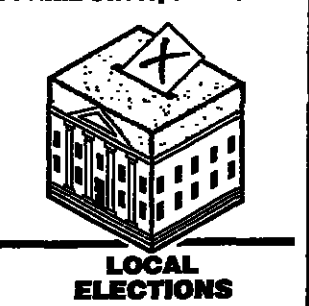
The West Midlands contains five of Labour's top fifty target seats. The area's importance as an electoral barometer is underlined by the fact that it would take a swing of 1 per cent or less to Labour for it to take all the seats in its top eight targets, including the four in the East Midlands.

A swing of 2 per cent or less would give it its top 25 targets and a swing of 3 per cent or less would give the party its top 35 targets.

For this reason the most recent poll of regional voting intentions was galling news for Labour. Rather than suggesting the almost minimal swing that would have allowed its hoped-for revival to take off, a Marplan survey last week suggested a 3.5 swing from Labour to the Conservatives in the West Midlands, along with a one point rise for the Tories and one point fall for Labour.

If that was reproduced in the general election the Conservative Party would not only hang on to its most vulnerable possessions but, in the West Midlands, go on to gain six Labour seats - Wolverhampton North East, Birmingham Erdington, West Bromwich East, Walsall South, Walsall North and Newcastle under Lyme.

But as the Labour Party begins its attempt to fight back from recent disasters it can



LOCAL ELECTIONS

take consolation from the apparent volatility of political opinion in the area.

The Times/MORI poll published earlier this month suggested that the Conservatives were enjoying less of an advantage than previously in the marginals.

MORI's survey, which aggregated regional figures for the first quarter of this year, suggested a 3.5 per cent swing to Labour in the West Midlands and a 5.5 swing to Labour in the East Midlands. That would have been more than enough to take the main target seats.

Over a period of only a few weeks, the mood of West Midlands Conservatives has been transformed as they prepare for the district council elections on May 7 (Craig Seton writes).

A month ago the talk was of holding the line against gains by Labour. Now the Conservatives claim they will make gains of their own. The new confidence has come from a Marplan poll in the West Midlands.

It put the Conservatives 21 per cent ahead of Labour, which was neck and neck with the Alliance.

It made grim reading for Labour, which has to do well in the West Midlands if it is to oust Mrs Thatcher.

Most cautious Conservatives believe success will come in the general election, rather than on May 7, and Labour candidates still anticipate modest advances.

The Alliance has predicted that for the first time in the West Midlands, Labour is no longer regarded as a potential winner.

However, the May 7 elections will not much change the colour of the political map in the West Midlands.

Labour has an unassailable majority of 22 in Birmingham.



M Jacques Chirac, the French Prime Minister, being greeted by Mrs Margaret Thatcher at Chequers yesterday before they went inside for talks on Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's offer to reduce short-range missiles in Europe. Report, page 20.

Crucial meeting on future of research

By Robert Matthews

The Department of Trade and Industry has agreed to take part in a meeting on Wednesday which will decide the fate of Britain's effort to exploit the newly discovered ceramics superconductors, widely seen as likely to play a key role in the electronics and computers of the future.

It is believed that the department may also announce the setting up of a special emergency research budget to exploit the new materials. The meeting will be attended by more than 100 scientists and industrialists.

The money is likely to come from the £210 million "Link" initiative, set up by the Prime Minister last December to increase commercial exploitation of scientific research. That would require industry to match any financial input from the Government.

The extra money cannot come soon enough, according to Dr Jan Evetts of Cambridge University's Department of Materials Science, one of the leading British research

groups in superconductors.

Dr Evetts has just returned from an international meeting in Los Angeles, where Japanese and American researchers disclosed their latest work with the materials, which have the unique ability to lose all electrical resistance when cooled with liquid nitrogen.

He said that of the 80 papers delivered at the conference, only one was from a British group; his own. The Japanese and Americans, he said, have already built usable electronic devices out of the materials.

Dr Evetts's team is one of only two in the world to have made ultra-fast switches out of the new materials using conventional microelectronic techniques.

According to Dr Evetts, arguably the most important breakthrough with the new technology has still yet to be made: the production of superconducting behaviour in a material at room temperature. That would widen the possible applications for the new technology.

The extra money cannot come soon enough, according to Dr Jan Evetts of Cambridge University's Department of Materials Science, one of the leading British research

Alliance makes Labour key target in opening round

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

The first half of the Alliance election campaign is likely to centre on an attack on the Labour Party in the hope of swiftly relegating it to third place in the polls, it was disclosed yesterday.

If the strategy pays off, Dr David Owen and Mr David Steel, the leaders of the centre party coalition, will then turn on the Conservatives, seeking to run them close by assuring Conservative wavering that an Alliance vote no longer risks handing Mr Neil Kinnock a back-door route to Downing Street.

Coupled with the Labour leader's assault on the "fruit

machine politics" of tactical voting on Friday, when in an appeal to the "anti-Conservative majority" he insisted that Labour is the only party capable of ousting Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the latest disclosures suggest the stage is set for a bitter scrap between the two challengers for power.

The 10-member Alliance planning group, led by Dr Owen and Mr Steel, which is in charge of the details of election preparation, will not decide on the precise tactics to be adopted in the campaign until Mrs Thatcher names the day.

But sources said yesterday

that in the light of Labour's current difficulties and its low standing in the polls, insider opinion is hardening in favour of making it the chief target.

One said: "The most significant thing that has happened in the last couple of months is the extent to which Labour has collapsed."

"So we can now talk about overtaking them and be seen as credible. Labour's in a bad way and on the old political principle of kicking a man when he is down, the idea of concentrating on them for the first half of the campaign then switching to the Tories has a lot of appeal."

contest southern

He was tolerated at first as a maverick individualist. But now the SDP hierarchy fears that Mr Sandelson could handicap the election effort by leaving the party during the general election campaign to join the Conservatives.

The report argues that the NHS, although technically responsible for public health has no control over many factors affecting health such as housing, unemployment, leisure facilities and road safety.

The new body would produce national objectives and targets for health promotion and would co-ordinate policies and action across all government departments, industry, health and community organizations.

Since health covered all elements of government, "it is appropriate that responsibility rest with the Prime Minister's Office," it says.

Health promotion in North America: implications for the UK (King's Fund, 126 Albert Street, London NW1, £7.50).

Call for new health policies

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

A new health organization, reporting directly to the Prime Minister, should be established to take responsibility for health promotion, a report published today says.

The report from the King Edward's Hospital Fund and the former Health Education Council says that the Government must develop new public health policies and take the lead in national health promotion programmes if Britain's "dismal" death toll from avoidable diseases such as heart attacks and cancer is to be reduced.

It suggests that the new body should include representatives from the National Health Service, local authorities, voluntary bodies and consumers. It should have a wider remit than the newly formed Health Education Authority.

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Civil Servants attack pay body

By Roland Rudd

The leader of Britain's top Civil Servants yesterday attacked the Top Salaries Review Board for "doing the Government's dirty work".

Mr John Ward, general secretary of the First Division Association, said the "extremely disappointing" 4.8 per cent recommended increase - to be staggered over six months - flies in the face of the board's own evidence.

"It is not the duty of independent pay review bodies to do the bidding of political parties, but unfortunately the TSRB is running scared", Mr Ward said. "In spite of their own evidence that a poor pay offer will damage our supply of the most able people, they say they must be cautious about the size of the increase."

Only 4.25 per cent will be paid immediately so not to anger other white-collar Civil Service unions.

"This is quite extraordinary when 2.5 per cent was needed to make up last year's shortfall between what the TSRB recommended and what the Government paid", Mr Ward added.

In a circular to members, he says the board's own commissioned survey shows comparable salaries at senior levels in the private sector running at 11 per cent for the past two years.

But the board argues that is because the pay of senior managers was related to profit bonuses. They always risked losing their jobs because of poor performance.

"The situation for the senior public servants in our remit has been relatively stable. Such a consideration argues against following outside movements too closely."

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Drivers escape as the traffic wardens vanish from streets

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

The fear of receiving a parking ticket in Britain's busy cities from an army of traffic wardens appears to be exaggerated.

Many streets go unpatrolled for days and even when the wardens are patrolling their beat, statistics show that they write out only a handful of tickets, so failing to live up to the image motorists have of them scribbling tickets eight hours a day.

In Lewisham, one of Greater London's largest shopping centres, traffic wardens appear on the streets only on Saturday and one week day.

Borough authorities are powerless to strike fear into the hearts of illegally parked motorists outside high street supermarkets, because wardens are controlled by police.

The police will occasionally respond with a blitz of ticket-writing, but the effect is short lived.

Mr Ken Crask, Conservative councillor responsible for parking in the south-east London borough of Bromley said: "The traffic warden system is breaking down in London. In Bromley the situation is desperate and we have no control over the wardens at all."

There are rarely more than

10 wardens to cover the busy shopping centres of Bromley, Orpington and West Wickham.

There are more than 50 separate warden "beats" in Kensington and Camden but a police spokesman said guardedly: "We try to walk each beat once a day."

London's force of 1,565 traffic wardens is more than 200 below strength. Poor pay and conditions are responsible for a 25 per cent turnover in staff each year.

Westminster City Council recently criticized its 355 wardens for averaging fewer than six parking tickets in an eight-hour shift.

Yet this makes London's "meter maids" Britain's most prolific parking ticket scribblers.

Bottom of the unofficial league table are Leicester, Nottingham and Birmingham where wardens stick two tickets a day to the windscreens of illegally parked cars.

While keeping an eye on 830 parking meters in Liverpool's city centre, 31 wardens each manage 3.5 tickets a day on average.

Glasgow (4.7 tickets a warden a day), Manchester (4.6) and Edinburgh (4.5) all fail to match the "productivity" of their London counterparts.

Strathclyde Regional Council said: "We are satisfied with the way the traffic warden service operates."

"We think they work hard to cope with the problem. Their work rate is good."

The Metropolitan Police are now conducting an in-depth study into every aspect of the capital's traffic warden service.

Last week the London boroughs told the Home Office and Department of Transport they wanted to take over responsibility for operating traffic wardens from the police.

"If we took over parking enforcement we would see the parking regulations de-criminalized so that the fines came back to the local authorities and then the whole scheme would be self-financing", a spokesman for the Association of London Authorities said.

Mr Douglas Hogg, Under Secretary of State at the Home Office, and Mr Peter Bottomley, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Transport, were also told that the London authorities are eager to take control of wheel clamping which they are confident could be made self-financing.

More GPs would 'support euthanasia for Aids victims'

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Growing support among doctors for voluntary euthanasia for people with incurable illnesses is likely to increase with the spread of the Aids epidemic, according to a medical magazine.

A National Opinion Poll, commissioned by the Voluntary Euthanasia Society, showed last week that 30 per cent of family doctors surveyed would support a change in the law to legalize the practice.

The percentage was twice that of a similar poll in 1985, which was also conducted by the society.

An editorial in *General Practitioner* today says the figures suggest a "remarkably strong resistance to change in

the law and practice" among doctors.

But it adds that there is likely to be an increasing amount of support of euthanasia for patients dying of Aids.

"The terminal stages of this disease are exceptionally unpleasant and distressing."

"Victims are typically young and articulate (in the middle if not the late stages of the disease) and they are likely to demand control and choice over their manner of death", the editorial says.

"If euthanasia is to come in the next 10 years, then it is on the back of Aids that it stands the greatest chance of acceptance."

It would not, however, be

confined to that disease in any conceivable legislation.

A British Medical Association working party has begun clarifying and revising the association's 16-year-old guidelines on euthanasia.

A conference on the subject is being held in London tomorrow to discuss the implications for the medical professions, nurses and the public, if there were a change in the association's policy.

The conference is partly sponsored by the Medical Education Trust, which describes a request for euthanasia as "a cry of despair", and advocates care provided by hospices as a "constructive alternative".

Anger at £90,000 pay off

A dispute has broken out in the Civil and Public Services Association, the largest Civil Service union, after the award of almost £90,000 in retirement pay to a senior official. Mr John Raywood, aged 46, a member of the union's ruling national moderate group, who recently lost the post of treasurer to Miss Chris Kirk, a former member of the Communist Party, is to receive £87,500.

The payment, awarded by the union's executive with no reference to the 150,000 members, has been condemned by some union officials on both the left and centre-right, as a diversion of resources. They say that the money should have gone to support the present campaign of strikes.

Mr John Macreadie, a militant supporter on the association's executive, called the pay-off a "disgrace".

Mr Raywood said yesterday that he was not sure how big his retirement pay would be. Under the existing arrangements union officials who lose elections have a minimum compensation of six months' pay, plus a maximum of two years further pay for officers who have served for more than 20 years.

That would entitle Mr Raywood, who earns £25,000 a year, to a retirement payment of £62,500. Under the latest terms operating, officers can claim up to three years.

He says that he will not know for sure which payment he is due until the executive of the association meets tomorrow.

Women teachers' interview hurdle

By Sarah Thompson, Education Reporter

Women teachers looking for promotion are still asked "irrelevant" questions such as "Are you on the Pill?" according to a teachers' union survey.

Mr Charles Naylor, National Union of Teachers secretary in Bedfordshire, found in a study of nearly 10 per cent of county teachers that women were facing questions at job interviews throughout their careers such as:

- How as an attractive woman do you cope with boys?
- Are you on the Pill?
- How much time off work would you need to look after your children?

The report has been an embarrassment for the Labour-Aliance controlled county council, whose schools sub-

committee last week agreed to act on the findings.

The council has an equal opportunities policy which expressly opposes discriminatory questions in job interviews.

It is writing to head teachers ordering them to make sure that policy is honoured. "Very few men are asked questions as irrelevant to their professional capacity, especially in the younger or older age groups", Mr Naylor said.

However, in the 30-40 age bracket, both men and women are often asked by head teachers or governors: "Are you politically active?"

Mr Naylor said that heads and governors tend to assume that promoting a woman means conflict with her family obligations.

Sutcliffe doctor attacks home seizure move

Court attempts to seize the home shared by the wife and parents-in-law of Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, were criticized yesterday by another appalling travesty of justice.

Dr Hugo Milne, consultant forensic scientist, who appeared as an expert witness for the defence at Sutcliffe's trial, said his wife Sonia was a victim of the same "moral dishonesty" which he believes turned her husband's trial into a legal farce.

Speaking for the first time since Sutcliffe was sentenced at the Central Criminal Court

to life imprisonment for the murder of 13 women and attempted murder of seven others, Dr Milne said he was appalled by the mental pressure to which Mrs Sutcliffe was being subjected.

"Sonia Sutcliffe knew nothing of the double life led by her husband."

Mrs Sutcliffe, aged 37, has been ordered by Bradford County Court to sell her £38,000 home in Garden Lane, Heaton, Bradford to pay a total of £25,000 compensation to two Ripper attack survivors and the mother of Sutcliffe's youngest victim.

Science report

Chernobyl fall-out explored

By Tony Samstag, Oslo

Up to a tenth of the radioactive caesium and other isotopes released in last year's explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power station in the Ukraine may have fallen on Sweden, according to a recently published analysis of meteorological data.

Sweden was the first country outside the Soviet Union to register the increased radioactivity readings that alerted the rest of the world to the Chernobyl catastrophe.

The analysis concentrates on two periods, the first immediately after the accident on April 26, when winds were blowing the radioactive plume

towards Scandinavia. That first period lasted for about four days, with a second three-day episode from May 8 when winds shifted back.

The researchers note that "Sweden was affected primarily by the emissions of nuclides occurring during the first and tenth days after the explosion".

Available meteorological data were perfectly adequate to track and later describe the transport of radionuclides from Chernobyl.

Caesium was deposited mainly in rain, but other substances, including iodine

isotopes, fell as contamination of dry dust particles.

The scientists conclude: "Experience from the Chernobyl accident shows extremely clearly that dispersion and fall-out of radionuclides are not limited to areas within a short distance of the site of the emissions."

"Very high fall-out may occur at distances of thousands of kilometres in connection with precipitation." The authors hope that their study will "provide a basis for further discussion".

Source: *Ambio*, vol xvi number 1, 1987. Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences/Pergamon Press.

Jet ski championships make a splash



Kevin Hobbs (left) and Paul Bookham clearing a jump in one of the stock races yesterday at the 1987 Fisher British Jet Ski Championships at the Cotswold Water Park near Cirencester (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

De-icing attacks cables

Black rust threat to 82 road bridges

By a Staff Reporter
The Department of Transport yesterday admitted that there are 82 road bridges in Britain of similar design to one near Port Talbot in Wales which collapsed as a result of corrosion.

The bridge fell into a river in December 1985 after steel cables inside it had been eaten away by rust.

The department said that the other bridges have all been checked and declared safe, but highway engineers say that the Government's routine bridge inspection procedures cannot detect the corrosion.

Mr Peter Bottomley, the junior transport minister, has

said that routine bridge inspections, which require annually only a visual check of the outside of bridges, may be deficient.

The cause of the collapse of the Welsh bridge was a form of corrosion called "black rust" which ate through steel support cables.

Part of the problem was winter de-icing salts sprayed on the bridge which had seeped into the concrete and attacked the cables inside their ducts.

Council engineers who inspected the bridge only months before said that there were no visible signs of corrosion.

The Government is also facing a crisis over the condition of 60,000 other concrete bridges which carry Britain's motorways and trunk roads.

Many of those have also been attacked by de-icing salts and are in decay, though there is said to be no danger of collapse. But the department faces repairs costing millions of pounds over the next five years.

The department has commissioned an emergency survey of 200 road bridges, sampled at random up and down the country over the next eight months.

Many of the bridges are expected to last only a fraction of their 120-year design life.

The dilemma facing the Department of Transport is how to carry out the work without causing disruption on the motorways.

The department is due to announce a new schedule for highway maintenance in a White Paper to be published tomorrow.

Bridge designers say they could not have foreseen the huge increase in the quantity of de-icing salts sprayed on the roads to cope with the increase in traffic.

Roadworks, page 5

Portfolio Gold Parents to visit Australia

Mr Robert Pritchard, administrator of the picturesque National Trust property Berington Hall, plans a family reunion in Australia after winning the weekly Portfolio Gold dividend of £8,000.

Mr Pritchard, aged 47, who administers the eighteenth century mansion near Leominster, Hereford and Worcester, with his wife, said: "Our daughter has just gone to Australia, so we can now go out to see her."

"It was an ambition we had that we will now be able to fulfil. The money could not have come at a better time."

The winner of Saturday's daily £4,000 dividend was Mrs Bronson Side, aged 59, of Chislehurst, Kent.

Mrs Side, who returned from South Africa last year, said: "My husband has recently retired and we have two daughters who are still students, so the money will go around very nicely."

Readers can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: Portfolio Gold, The Times, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ.



Mr Robert Pritchard: planning a family reunion.

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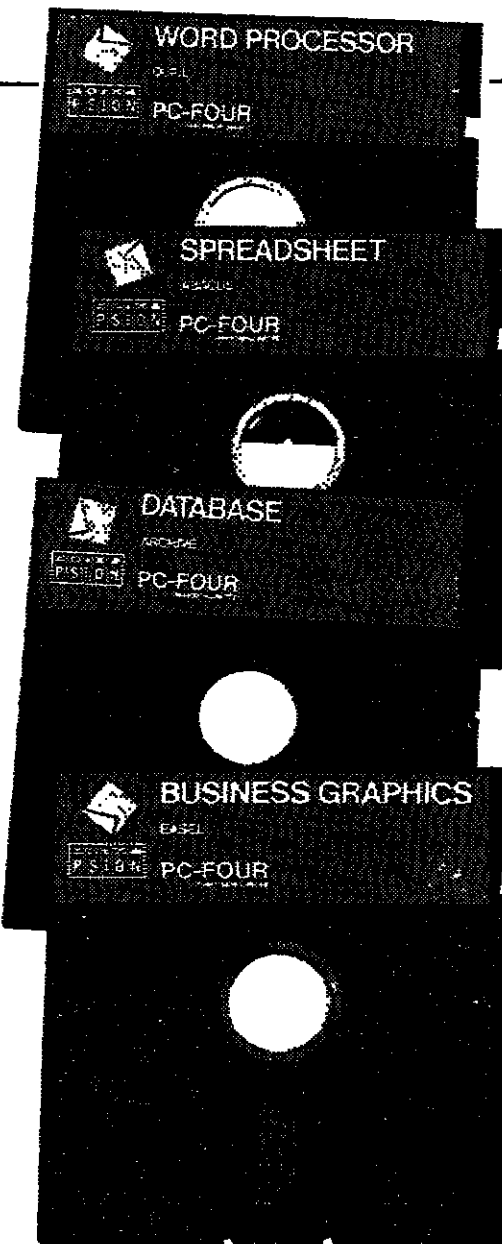
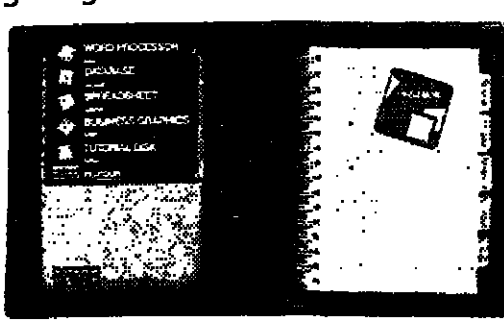
If you've ever dreamed of owning a suite of key programs for your PC without having to dig deep into the pocket, here's the eye-opener.

PC-Four gives you four powerful, feature-packed programs (plus a tutor for each, for good measure), all for the price you'd expect to pay for just one of them.

They're not 'pruned down' versions of other programs, either. They're all well-proven and highly rated. What's more, you can exchange data between the four programs (or with other programs, for that matter) so you can integrate your work. And they're all extremely easy to use, with help screens sensibly related to the current operation available at all times.

You might think, at such a low price, that the programs don't have all the features that you'd expect or want. You'd be wrong.

Take PC-Quill. 'Which Computer' called it "...the best general purpose word processor on the market." With good reason. It has full editing, text and page formatting facilities, automatic page numbering and word count, headers, footers, glossaries and so on. It incorporates mail merge from the keyboard or saved files. And the display reflects the print-out—with type emphases. So you can see what you're getting.



Then there's PC-Archive. This powerful database can handle a number of huge files (up to 64k records each) at a time. It can be used direct from the keyboard, or through its comprehensive interactive programming language—which is structured so that it can be extended. And it has a built-in 'forms' designer to format the screen display and print-out. "Its degree of usefulness is extraordinary" said PC User. We're not surprised.

It's the same story with the graphics creator, PC-Easel. This gives a wide choice of 3D, line and pie chart displays with interactive entry and design. Data can be entered direct or from a saved file and manipulated by formulae, or it can be created by manipulation of existing data. It provides user positioned vertical and horizontal annotations, keys and labels, and automatic scaling of the axes. And it allows multiple representations on one display. Micro Decision referred to it as "an extremely flexible graphics package".

On top of all this, remember, there is a tutorial disk, to show you how to use the more important elements of each program. And of course, there is a comprehensive manual.

PC-Four is designed for all IBM* PC compatibles, including the new low priced clones. Now you know what it does and what it runs on, take another look at the price. Twice.

For the name of your nearest stockist or a colour brochure, contact Psion on 01-723 9408.



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Solicitors campaign to appear in the High Court

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Solicitors are calling for increased rights to conduct cases in the High Court and in simple criminal crown court cases as a first step to dismantling restrictive practices between the two branches of the legal profession.

The latest push in the Law Society's campaign for full rights of audience for solicitors in all courts comes in a paper, published today, to the Marre Committee on the future of the legal profession.

The society's proposals for initial changes are more limited than previous demands for full rights of audience in the higher courts and as such would not require primary legislation.

But it says that they are to be seen as a "start" and makes clear it has not changed its policy of unlimited rights of audience in all courts.

As a first step, to be immediately implemented, the society calls for solicitors to have the right to conduct a range of civil proceedings.

They include all preliminary applications in the High Court and the Court of Appeal; all trials on costs alone; all "consent" hearings; all applications for costs, or enforcement of orders for costs; and certain trials in the Queen's Bench Division (those which could be sent to the county court for trial, as 5,000 were last year).

In the crown court, the society says defence solicitors should be given additional rights of audience in contested trials or pleas of guilty in offences which could have been dealt with by magistrates, but where, for example, the accused has chosen jury trial or magistrates declined to hear the case.

Second, they should have the right to take trials or pleas of guilty in cases which can be heard by either a circuit judge, recorder, or assistant recorder.

Other proposals are that lawyers in the Crown Prosecution Service should have the same rights of audience in the Crown Court as defence solicitors have; and that the anomaly whereby non-Crown Prosecution Service solicitors cannot conduct prosecutions in the Crown Court should be corrected.

Present rights of audience are unreasonable because they are limited arbitrarily, the society says.

For example, they are based on the maximum penalty that might be imposed or the amount of money claimed, rather than on the difficulty of the case, the importance of the subject matter or its length.

"The client might be better served by his solicitor acting as advocate, as he would be familiar with all the details of his case."

The committee on the future of the legal profession was set up last April. It is due to report in the summer of next year.

New home starts set record

Private house-building in Britain reached its highest level for 15 years in the first quarter of 1987, with a total of 46,700 houses started.

The latest figures from the National House-Building Council show that number is also 20 per cent higher than in the first quarter of 1986.

Completions numbered 43,000 for the first quarter, 9 per cent up on the first quarter of last year.

Those figures come after a good 1986 for the private house-building industry when some 185,000 houses were started.

Regional details show the increase is not confined to the booming South-east. The North, North-west, and Yorkshire & Humberside showed a 16 per cent increase in starts in the quarter compared with 12 months ago.

A council index of the ability of first-time buyers to afford a new house shows that it became more difficult in the first quarter of this year compared with the previous three months.

Hauliers get more permits to Europe

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

The number of permits to enable British road hauliers to make journeys into Italy and West Germany has been significantly increased after pressure by the Department of Transport.

As a result of negotiations, British hauliers will be able to make an extra 2,500 journeys into Italy this year and an additional 9,000 into West Germany.

Mr Peter Bottomley, Minister for Roads and Traffic, said: "The Government will continue to press for the early removal of all permits and other restrictive trade practices on international transport in the European Community."

Roadworks until next Monday:

London and South-east

M2/A2 Kent: Lane restrictions at the Cobham intersection and at the Brenley roundabout, Faversham.

M20 Kent: White lining on both carriageways between Folkestone and Ashford with a 50mph speed restriction.

M11 London: New road layout and reconstruction work continues at Redbridge roundabout.

M25 Essex: Widening work at junction 31 roundabout (Grays), below the motorway.

M275 Hampshire: Flyover construction between junction with M27 and Rudmore roundabout, Portsmouth.

Midlands

M5 Hereford and Worcester: One lane open southbound and two northbound between junctions 5 and 6 (Droitwich/Worcester North). Southbound entry slip at junction 5 and southbound exit slip at junction 6 are closed.

M5 West Midlands: Lane restrictions and some overnight carriageway closures between junctions 4 and 8 (Bromsgrove/M50 South Wales).

A38(M) West Midlands, Aston Expressway: Lane restrictions.

North

M63 Construction of M63 flyover at Portwood roundabout, Stockport. Road width reduced to two lanes.

M63 Barton Bridge, Greater Manchester: Widening scheme. Lane restrictions and slip road closures between junctions 1 and 7 (Eccles interchange/A56 Stretford).

M6 Cumbria: Contraflow between junctions 41 and 42 (Wigton/Carlisle).

M56 Cheshire: Roadworks between junctions 7 and 9 (Lymm to Bowden).

M66 Greater Manchester: Resurfacing between junctions 2 and 4 (Bury/M62) with contraflow.

Wales and west

M5 Gloucestershire: Bridge painting between junctions 11 and 12 (Gloucester). Lane closures on both carriageways.

M5 between junctions 24 and 25 (Bridgwater/Taunton): Contraflow on northbound carriageway.

M5 between junctions 21 and 20 (Weston-super-Mare/Clevedon): Northbound lane closures.

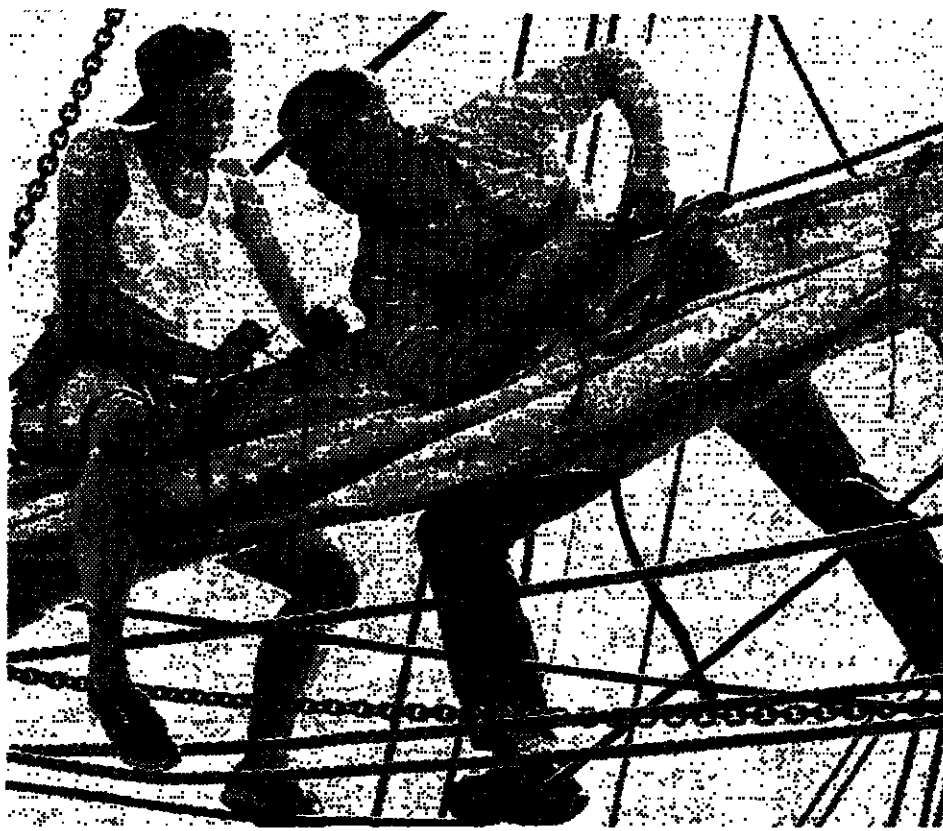
Scotland

M8 between junction 17 and 15 (Glasgow Kelvin-side/Townhead): Construction work. Outside lane closed on eastbound carriageway.

M90 Tayside: Lane closures in both directions between junctions 4 and 11 (Kilty/A9).

M85 Tayside: Roadworks between M90 (junction 10) and junction 1. Northbound outside lane closed.

Information compiled and supplied by AA Roadwatch



Caroline Eltringham and Jochan Howell on Kaskalot, an eighteenth century tall ship which will escort five ships to Portsmouth today as they prepare to re-enact the 12,500 mile voyage to Australia made by England's First Fleet 200 years ago (Photograph: Mark Pepper).

Protest at nuclear awayday

Around 300 people took up the offer of a nuclear awayday at the weekend and were met with demonstrations throughout their journey.

The "Flying Scotsman" was chartered by British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) to haul the first of five special trains taking visitors to its reprocessing plant at Sellafield in Cumbria as part of a £2 million a year public relations campaign to improve its image.

The trip took place on a weekend of protest demonstrations around Europe to mark the anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster.

Protest groups such as Greenpeace and CORE (Cumbrians Opposed to a Radioactive Environment) as well as some MPs condemned the exercise as "insensitive and unfeeling" and a further attempt by BNFL to "soft sell" the image of the plant.

Three members of Greenpeace tried to chain themselves to the engine and were arrested.

Agriculture debate: 1

Pressure to control farming costs as EEC talks resume

Last December Mr Michael Jopling, Minister for Agriculture, returned from Brussels in something close to triumph.

The Prime Minister praised him for his toughness and persistence as President of the Council of Ministers in persuading EEC colleagues to accept the remorseless build up of food surpluses behind a high wall of protective tariffs could not continue indefinitely.

But four months on the promise of historic change is beginning to seem illusory. Entrenched opposition remains to anything which might carry the political risk of upsetting farmers, particularly in France and West Germany.

Unlike Australia and New Zealand, which have virtually withdrawn support for farmers, neither the EEC nor the United States has been able to bring itself to bite the bullet.

The CAP is forever threatening to burst the community budget because prices are being supported at artificially high levels, wholly unjustified by international demand.

The fact is that, in spite of all the Malthusian prophecies of world famine, most countries are, thanks to technological advances, comfortably able to feed themselves. The principal exceptions are some of the poorer ones in Africa.

The EEC farm price negotiations resume in Luxembourg today with ministers facing unprecedented pressure to bring the cost of the Common Agricultural Policy under control. Yet, despite ever rising expenditure, farmers are complaining that their incomes are lower in real terms than at any time in the past 30 years. In the first of two articles John Young, Agriculture Correspondent, describes the paradox.

The only significant food buyer on world markets is the Soviet Union, which can effectively dictate its own terms.

Europe is thus pretending to be a food exporter, when there are only a handful of markets for its produce and heavy competition to supply them. Some commodities, such as butter, can scarcely be given away.

But, instead of accepting the realities of the market place and moving to dismantle its protective levies, the commission in Brussels is now proposing a tax on imported oils and fats.

The idea is that this will raise revenue and at the same time reduce the enormous subsidies which have to be paid to processors of home-grown rapeseed, sunflowers and soya to allow them to compete with importers.

The Government is opposed to the whole idea which, it says, will raise consumer prices and damage relations with Third World suppliers.

The biggest irony is that

farmers, certainly in Britain, appear to receive little benefit from all this protectionism.

One reason for that would appear to be the complex system of "green" currencies, which is supposed to equalize farm incomes throughout the community, and to prevent farmers in any one country from benefiting unfairly from the weakness of their national currency against the European Currency Unit (ECU) in which farm prices are calculated.

At present the green pound is valued at up to 25 per cent above the actual sterling exchange rate. The commission has proposed a 4 per cent devaluation which, it claims, would add £190 million a year to British farmers' earnings.

The National Farmers' Union has said that is not nearly enough, and is pressing for a 15 per cent devaluation. Mr Jopling has said he is determined to get more than 4 per cent, but it is hard to see him getting his way.

Tomorrow: Political implications.

"My company really is limited."

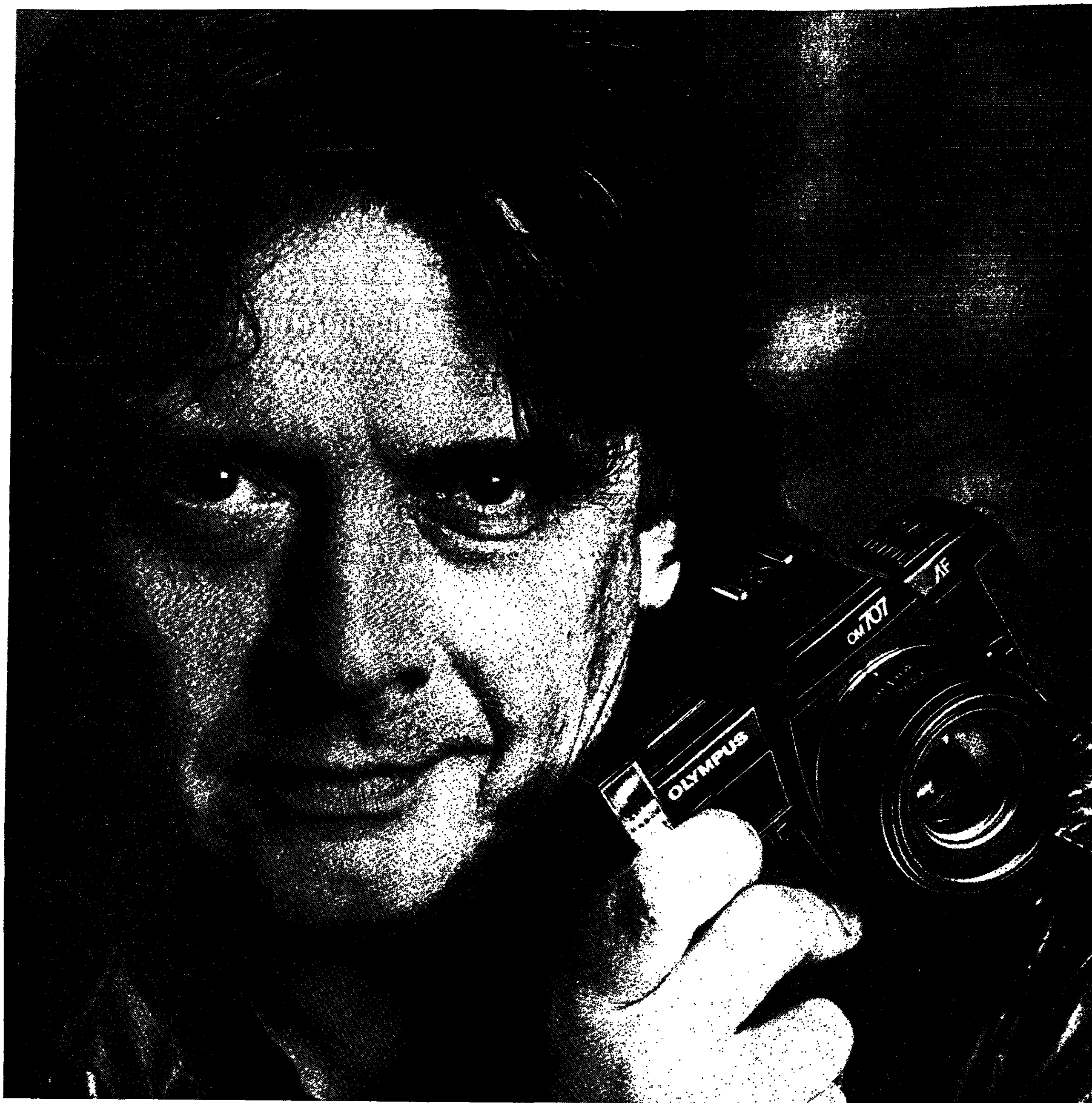
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WORLD

Protest
Chernobyl

Rally

May Day
round-up

Test for

Vietnam
honour

Bear-faced

Peres' for
hope of co

Soviet Pacific

WORLD SUMMARY

Protesters mark Chernobyl date

Thousands of anti-nuclear demonstrators staged protests in Europe, the Far East and in the Americas yesterday to mark the first anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster in the Soviet Union (Our Foreign Staff writes). In Moscow, low-key protesters handed out leaflets on nuclear safety.

In the most violent protest, Dutch police and 2,000 protesters clashed at the Borssele nuclear power plant; 29 police and 10 demonstrators were injured. In Bern, Switzerland, police fired rubber bullets and teargas when a rally of 12,000 ended in clashes. More peaceful protests took place in Spain, France, West Germany, Sweden and Japan. In Prague, five Greenpeace activists were arrested after distributing leaflets on nuclear safety.

Mexicans condemned those building the country's first nuclear plant, calling them "little Frankensteins".

Rally at Hess's prison

Bonn — Nearly 400 left-wing demonstrators held an anti-Nazi rally outside Spandau prison in Berlin yesterday to mark the 93rd birthday of Rudolf Hess, Hitler's former deputy, who has spent 40 years in the jail (John England writes). It was his 46th birthday behind bars.

A little earlier police arrested two young Nazi sympathizers who dashed through barriers to reach barred windows at the jail's main gate, shouting "Freedom for Hess". Admirers of Hess, including a few elderly people who laid flowers at the jail entrance, were outnumbered by an anti-fascist group.

May Day round-up

Warsaw (Reuters) — Nine Poles held on terrorism charges are being freed by amnesty for political offenders, but security police have rounded up 537 other political opponents for "warning talks" and seizure of illegal material. Opposition sources believe the "warnings" may be linked with possible May Day demonstrations next week. The nine freed include seven identified as members of a group held for almost a year on charges of planning to disrupt 1986 May Day celebrations with teargas.

Obstacles to thaw

Peking — Talks between China and the Soviet Union earlier this month "added impetus" to the normalization of relations but obstacles remained, a senior Chinese diplomat has said (Robert Gries writes). Mr. Qian Qichen, the minister, said Moscow must also eliminate medium-range nuclear missiles in Asia simultaneously with those in Europe. He said the difficulty in improving political relations meant "the principal goal is far from being reached."

Test for Governor

Hong Kong — Sir David Wilson, colony's new Governor, is facing the first test of his political and administrative skills, with problems centring round the establishment of democratic institutions in advance of Hong Kong's reversion to Chinese sovereignty in 1997 (David Bonavia writes). The latest public controversy is about a statement by Sir Sze-Yuen chung, a prominent local figure, about the lack of need for an elected legislature. He was partly echoing the views of Mr Deng Xiaoping, China's elder statesman, who said Hong Kong should not copy British or US institutions.

Vietnam honour

Sydney — Australia's long-forgotten Vietnam veterans were accorded symbolic recognition when, for the first time, they led annual Anzac Day parades across the country on Saturday. (Stephen Taylor writes). Vietnam veterans are normally at the rear of the parades, in which Australians honour their war dead, and, as in the US, have generally been treated as a stain on a proud military tradition. About 48,000 served in Vietnam.

Terrorist swoop

Madrid — Spanish police arrested Giuseppe Fallini and Silvano Nardini, two presumed members of Italy's Red Brigades, in Barcelona during the weekend in an operation in which Italian anti-terrorist experts also took part (A Correspondent writes). The arrests bring to six the number of presumed Red Brigade terrorists caught by police following the discovery of a Red Brigades cell in the Spanish city.

Bear-faced survivor

Oslo — A Norwegian coalminer on the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard has become one of the few men to live and recount a close encounter with a polar bear (Tony Samstag writes). The attack took place just before the long Easter holiday in a hunting cabin at Listefjorden, 100 miles north-west of Longyearbyen. Mr Heinrich Eggenfellner, aged 21, tumbled out of his sleeping bag at four in the morning to beat the animal off with a frying pan and a signal flare.

Peres' foes boost hope of conference

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Mr Yassir Arafat's success in Algiers in reunifying the Palestinian movement and the weekend trip to Moscow of President Assad of Syria have boosted the call by Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister, for a Middle Eastern peace conference.

According to sources close to Mr Peres, he will have concrete plans for an international peace conference ready by the summer. He is said to believe that unless negotiations actually start this year, elections in both the US and Israel will freeze any initiatives, while relations become more and more strained.

He knows that Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister and Likud leader, would rather dissolve the coalition Government than agree to the international conference. But Mr Peres, who is leader of the Labour Party, hopes that his strenuous efforts to unblock

the stalled Middle East peace process could gain enough popular support to win an election outright.

Developments at the weekend, however, have added to the momentum Mr Peres believes is building up for calling the conference. One was Mr Arafat's success at the meeting of the Palestine National Council. The reunification was achieved only by the PLO's becoming more radical, by virtually breaking off relations with Egypt and by antagonizing Syria, which strongly opposes Mr Arafat. The PLO is thus seen here to have disqualified itself from the conference.

President Assad's Moscow visit is seen as helpful because the Syrian leader appears to have bought further Soviet military aid at the price of accepting that Russia could re-establish diplomatic ties with Israel in the context of Middle East peace talks.

PLO ready to challenge Israel and Arab leaders

From Juan Carlos Guncio, Algiers

After four years of setbacks Mr Yassir Arafat yesterday morning led the Palestine Liberation Organization into a new era of unity that is a challenge to both Israel and the Arab leaders, who have often used the division among Palestinians to further their own political goals.

Mr Arafat closed the 18th session of the Palestine National Council amid thunderous applause. Two thousand Palestinian delegates and observers embraced each other and sang and danced in the conference hall of the Club des Pins just outside the Algerian capital to celebrate the Palestinian reconciliation which effectively healed the rifts that had weakened the PLO since 1982.

The celebrations were made all the more enthusiastic by a last minute crisis that threatened the newfound Palestinian unity before it

had been formally announced. President Mubarak of Egypt unexpectedly warned that he was ready to act against the PLO if its parliament approved a resolution that Cairo deemed hostile and critical.

The draft resolution was the result of a week of intense discussion to find a compromise between the radical factions' demands that Mr Arafat's controversial ties with Egypt — the only Arab state that has diplomatic relations with Israel — be totally and formally cut, and Mr Arafat's refusal to break with Cairo.

The unexpected obstacle was removed when both sides — Mr Arafat's dominant Al-Fatah faction and the Marxist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) of Dr George Habash — agreed on a door open for continued and direct contacts with Cairo.

Obviously Mr Arafat could not please Egypt and keep the newly-found unity of the PLO. The PFLP threatened to walk out if the draft text was changed. It was joined by two other factions, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Palestinian Communist Party. It was at that point that Mr Arafat had to give in to demands from the Palestinian opposition and take the risk of adding Egypt to the list of Arab governments uncomfortable with the Palestinian reconciliation.

It was Mr Arafat's most glorious moment since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982 and the Syrian-backed rebellion that expelled him from Tripoli in 1983. It was no coincidence that he devoted half of his 20-minute speech to stressing how costly yet futile Israeli and Syrian efforts to eliminate his influence in Lebanon had been, how

intrinsically related is the fate of the Palestinians and the Lebanese and how evident the miscalculations by Syria and Israel have become in past years.

The PNC passed a special resolution underlining the "common destiny" of Palestinians and Lebanese and vigorously condemned the Syrian-backed Shia Muslim Amal militia for attacking refugee camps in Beirut and in southern Lebanon. The same document subtly mentioned the special relationship that exists between the PLO and Mr Walid Jumblatt, the Druze leader.

Obviously Mr Arafat is not seeking to antagonize the Syrians, since he is fully aware that the solidarity of Palestinian unity largely depends upon the tactfulness of his approach towards Damascus.

For Mr Arafat the PNC session has become a victory, since the concessions he made to bring his

former adversaries back under his leadership were small compared to the long-term political gains. He can once again claim to be the leader of all the Palestinians, not only of the overwhelming majority, and must be taking particular interest in observing his main Arab foe, President Assad of Syria, isolated by the Palestinians and at a crucial turning point with Moscow.

The tone of resolutions regarding Syria is conciliatory, but on Palestinian terms. The resolutions have been drafted with such care that they leave the door open for an eventual reconciliation between the PLO of Mr Arafat and Syria.

In their analysis a unified PLO is a factor no-one can afford to ignore, and an isolated Syria under pressure from the Soviet Union and Algeria will eventually have to come to terms if an Arab summit is to be arranged.

Assad 'agrees' to search for reconciliation with Arafat

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

President Assad of Syria has returned from Moscow after reportedly promising to re-open a dialogue — however cool — for reconciliation with the newly-reunited Palestine Liberation Organization and its chairman, Mr Yassir Arafat.

Despite the risk to relations with the Soviet Union's closest ally in the Middle East, Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Russian leader, appears to have persuaded the Syrian President after 76 hours of discussions that Moscow's hopes for an international conference — the bedrock of Soviet policy in the region — now rest on Mr Assad's acquiescence in the new Palestinian status quo.

A key section of a report issued by Tass referred specifically to the two leaders' approval "of the Palestine

reconciliation under Mr Arafat's leadership. It provided the initiative for this week's declaration of Palestinian "unity", in part by using Mr Nayef Hawatme's pro-Moscow Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Palestine Communist Party. A unified PLO, in Moscow's eyes, can form a credible delegation at an international Middle East conference.

● The Gulf Soviet officials have been touring the Arab Gulf states — including even Oman, the most pro-Western of them all — saying that both superpowers must co-operate to help end the Gulf War.

● Vladimir Petrovsky, the Soviet deputy Foreign Minister, said in Abu Dhabi last week that Moscow and Washington would take "joint steps" to bring the war to an end, hinting that this could involve an international engagement force on the Iran-Iraq border and an arms embargo on both nations.

● Syria and Lebanon: the Russians have pursued an independent policy over both the PLO leadership — with which Syria is in dispute — and Lebanon, where the Soviet Ambassador, Mr Vasily Kolotsha, has made a personal visit to Mr Samir Geagea, the Phalangist militia leader who regards Syria as his principle enemy.

President Assad's visit to Moscow is likely to be a trade-off: help for Syria's weak economy and promises of further military support, in return for his agreement to re-open a dialogue with Mr Arafat and to take a more tolerant line with the Lebanese Christian leadership.

● Egypt: The Russians want to invite President Mubarak to Moscow, probably in August, and to entertain an Egyptian military delegation in the hope of securing a new arms agreement, possibly for the upgrading of existing Soviet equipment in the Egyptian arsenal.

● Israel: The Russians still hope to persuade moderates in the Israeli leadership to accept



Assad: toleration in exchange for arms and economic aid

Liberation Organization's efforts to reconcile differences within its ranks". It did not suggest that President Assad expressed any warmth towards the PLO leader, whom he personally distrusts, but Mr Gorbachov made perfectly clear that Mr Assad was going to be rewarded for his understanding with renewed promises of Soviet military assistance if Israel attacks.

Syrian state television reported at length on Mr Gorbachov's promises of assistance, taking the unusual step of using its own correspondent to broadcast from Moscow on the visit. Mr Assad, wearing a large Russian fur hat, could be seen shaking hands warmly with Soviet leaders before stepping aboard his Syrian airplane for the return trip to Damascus.

The Syrians, however, did not hint at the new reality behind the visit: that the Soviet Union has embarked on a series of bold steps to further its policies in the Middle East every bit as unprecedented as its proposals on nuclear arms.

Arab leaders are now looking to Mr Gorbachov to transform the chances of peace in the region. Moscow's long-standing demand for an international peace conference, which has support even inside Israel, now looks more credible here than it has ever — to the detriment of the United States' own flagging policies in the Middle East.

Mr Gorbachov's vigorous pursuit of Soviet objectives in the Middle East has embraced five main areas:

● The PLO: for more than two years, the Russians have been pressing for its internal



Gorbachov: is eclipsing Reagan as the peace-maker

an international peace conference at which Moscow would have an equal role with the United States.

The freeing of Jewish prisoners in the Soviet Union, hints that rules on Jewish emigration to Israel will be relaxed, and the prospect of a resumption of diplomatic relations between Israel and the Soviet Union are all intended to encourage Israeli support for the conference.

Women out in the cold in Swiss poll



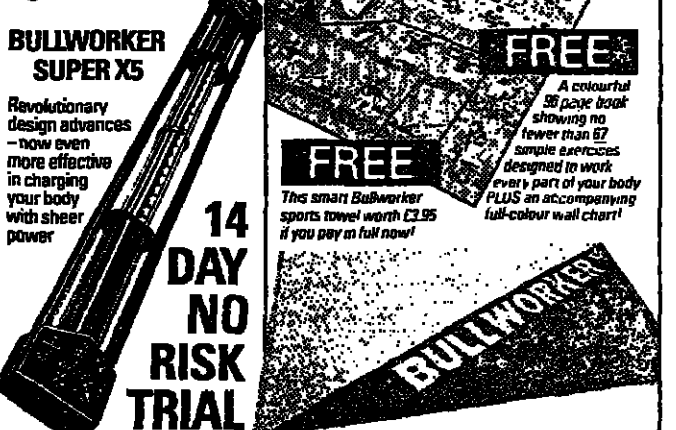
Three generations of women from the Swiss canton of Glarus, who still do not have the vote in local elections, looking on as the men cast their votes are a centuries-old tradition in the canton, and women have never been allowed to take part.

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Soviet Pacific threat divides Howe and Lange

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain and New Zealand are expected to disagree today over the best way to counter rising Soviet and Libyan influence in the island nations of the Pacific.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr David Lange, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, meet in Wellington this morning.

Their discussions will throw into focus the consequences of New Zealand's anti-nuclear policies and the virtual breakdown of the Anzus treaty. A suspicion in New Zealand that Britain is placing ties with France ahead of Commonwealth links could surface officially for the first time.

Both governments have watched with unease as Moscow has established diplomatic footholds in Vanuatu and Kiribati (formerly the New Hebrides and the Gilbert Islands), while Tripoli has engaged in "mischief-making" in Vanuatu and in New Caledonia.

Sir Geoffrey will urge Mr Lange to resume full defence co-operation. Britain and the United States have felt obliged to keep warships out of New Zealand waters since his Labour Government came to power in 1984.

Legislation which Labour has undertaken to complete before this year's general elec-

tion will bar foreign warships unless Wellington is satisfied that they are not carrying nuclear weapons.

The policy led to New Zealand's effective suspension from the Anzus defence treaty with the US and Australia.

Mr Lange has added that Britain excluded his country from the nations' joint intelligence committee, and is expected to focus his conversations with Sir Geoffrey on Britain's refusal to endorse the South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty, which forbids the use, storage and testing of nuclear weapons in the region. Britain has followed a lead set by Paris and Washington,

but says that it will observe the treaty in practice. The New Zealanders believe, but have not said, that Britain was influenced by the growing importance of Anglo-French co-ordination of nuclear policies.

● WELLINGTON: Sir Geoffrey will use the expulsion of a Soviet diplomat from New Zealand to reinforce criticism of the Lange Government's anti-nuclear policies when he meets Mr Lange today (A Correspondent writes).

The political counsellor at the Soviet embassy has been given until the end of the week to leave after being identified as a KGB officer.

Warning from US 'elder statesmen'

Nixon and Kissinger say 'wrong' arms deal could set Nato at risk

From Michael Binyon
Washington

Mr Richard Nixon, the former US President, and Dr Henry Kissinger, his Secretary of State, gave a blunt warning yesterday that if President Reagan and Mr Gorbachov struck the "wrong kind of arms deal" they could create the most profound crisis in Nato's 40-year history.

In an article in the *Los Angeles Times* and *The Washington Post*, they said that they were "deeply concerned about this danger".

Their warning, amounting to a frank rejection of the Gorbachov offer, will be profoundly influential and will put Mr Reagan, who is eager for agreement, in a very difficult position. They admitted that he had an historic opportunity to take a "major step forward" in US-Soviet relations. There was little doubt that a summit meeting would come this year and that an arms control agreement would be signed. But it remained open whether this would lead to a breakthrough towards peace.

They said that the offer Mr Gorbachov was putting forward "seems almost too good to be true — an offer we apparently cannot refuse". But his purpose was to weaken ties between the US and western Europe and be-

come a "zero option" — first proposed by the West — will further inflame the confused debate here. The administration and many right-wing supporters have welcomed the Gorbachov offer, while traditional advocates of arms control, including Mr Nixon, who were calling for US movement, are now decrying it as a trap.

Mr Nixon and Dr Kissinger lay down two conditions: the elimination of all intermediate-range missiles world-wide, and linking that elimination to an end to Soviet conventional superiority.

They say that the credibility of the US strategic deterrent would be eroded if US missiles are withdrawn across the Atlantic. Deterrence could not be based on US battlefield nuclear weapons because of their short range, or on tactical bombers because of Soviet air defences.

Relying on battlefield nuclear weapons would also effectively confine their use to German soil. With such a prospect, no German government could long resist the "siren song of denuclearization" or else the acquisition of nuclear weapons itself. This would leave US forces in Europe without adequate nuclear protection.

The call for a zero option including the scrapping of all missiles in Asia puts Mr Reagan in a dilemma. He agreed at Reykjavik to a residue of 100 missiles on either side. But the Administration said on Thursday that it was still hoping for a global zero outcome, as this would make verification easier.

The Nixon linkage to a reduction in Soviet conventional forces is even more tricky, as it will gather strong support here but could effectively sabotage any INF agreement.

candidly European reservations about the "zero option" — first proposed by the West — will further inflame the confused debate here. The administration and many right-wing supporters have welcomed the Gorbachov offer, while traditional advocates of arms control, including Mr Nixon, who were calling for US movement, are now decrying it as a trap.

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Europeans to confer on defence options

From Richard Owen
Brussels

Foreign ministers of the seven nations of the Western European Union, who are under intense superpower pressure for a swift arms deal, are meeting to review Europe's options in response to Mr Mikhail Gorbachov's offer on Euro-missiles.

The ministers, already in Luxembourg for an EEC meeting, will tomorrow consider arguments in favour of retaining in Europe some Nato nuclear capacity, including shorter-range missiles.

The WEU, long moribund after its foundation in the 1950s, has undergone a revival in the past three years. Since the EEC as such cannot yet deal directly with defence issues, the WEU — despite American suspicions — is increasingly seen as a vehicle for European defence policies.

Tomorrow's session will put this to the test. Britain will be represented by Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, because Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, is in New Zealand.

The Europeans will formulate their final response to Mr Gorbachov's offer at a meeting of Nato defence ministers in Norway next month, followed by the Nato council in Reykjavik on June 11. But with meetings of Nato ambassadors and the Nato special consultative group on medium range nuclear missiles (INF) also scheduled for this week in Brussels, the outline of European thinking is already taking shape.

Defence officials say that the momentum toward complete elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe this year is "unstoppable".

But the Europeans' instinct is to insist on Nato's "right to match" the Warsaw Pact in shorter-range missiles and to resist pressure to abolish these as well.

Guernica is bombed with carnations

From Richard Wigg
Guernica

Aircraft "strafed" this historic Basque town yesterday, exactly as German war planes had done 50 years ago to the day. But instead of incendiary bombs they dropped nest bunches of red and white carnations.

This commemoration of the most notorious action in the Spanish Civil War served, however, to highlight today's sharp divisions among the Basques.

In spite of all the talk about Guernica symbolizing peace, demonstrators supporting Eta, the Basque armed separatist organization, managed to delay for half an hour official ceremonies attended by the Basque autonomous Government.

The Basque police had to separate radical nationalists, who had chained themselves together and were demanding the release of all Eta detainees from Spanish jails and the establishment of an independent Basque state, from clashing with equally angry supporters of the ruling Basque Nationalist Party.

The atmosphere was also tense because six people were badly burnt on Saturday night, when three masked men threw petrol bombs into a Basque Socialist Party headquarters near Bilbao.

The Socialists yesterday blamed the Herri Batasuna coalition, the political wing of Eta, for the attack and, evoking the Guernica outrage, insisted that there could be no condemnation of fascist violence without condemnation of Eta terrorism today.

Señor José Ardanza, the Basque Chief Minister, finally reached Guernica's Casa de Juntas, the ancient Basque Parliament, amid mingled insults and cheers.

The planes, all belonging to aero clubs from different parts of Spain, flew the route taken by the Heinkels and Junkers of the Condor Legion, which in 1937 helped Franco's forces to crush the Basques, who were fighting alongside the Republic.

Old photographs of the destroyed centre of the town were displayed at many street corners, and the red, green and white Basque flag, draped in black, was hung from the



Two security men restrain a demonstrator demanding the release of jailed members of Eta, the Basque armed separatist organization, during yesterday's ceremonies in Guernica.

balconies of many homes where families remembered their dead.

In the main square Hitler's instructions to his Foreign Minister not to allow an international investigation into the tragedy were also recorded, as well as Franco's allegation that a retreating Basque Army had set the town on fire, and that "red propaganda" was responsible for the international outcry provoked by the bombing.

The Chief Minister, a member of the Basque Nationalist Party, yesterday condemned the minority "who wish to embark on again on irrational and sterile adventures leading to destruction and hatred".

But he went on to appeal, in the presence of representatives of other martyred cities, including Hiroshima, for Guernica to be seen now as a symbol of peace.

The Chief Minister unveiled a first version of a monument commissioned by the Basque Government for the anniversary entitled "Peace, Respect, Tolerance and Life" by Eduardo Chillida, Spain's leading sculptor.

Franco's role in what was to be the precursor of the Second World War air raids on Coventry and Dresden has caused fresh controversy on this anniversary. Many local people who survived evidently still feel that all light on the tragedy has not yet been shed.

But a leading Spanish historian, Professor Manuel Tuñón de Lara, said he believed that the Franco regime had destroyed the relevant documents.

The controversy rests in Spain for the moment with the conclusions of Professor Angel Viñas, the historian who has done most work on Guer-

nica. In his words, "it is unreasonable to exonerate the Franco high command and Franco himself from responsibility" until documents emerge proving the contrary.

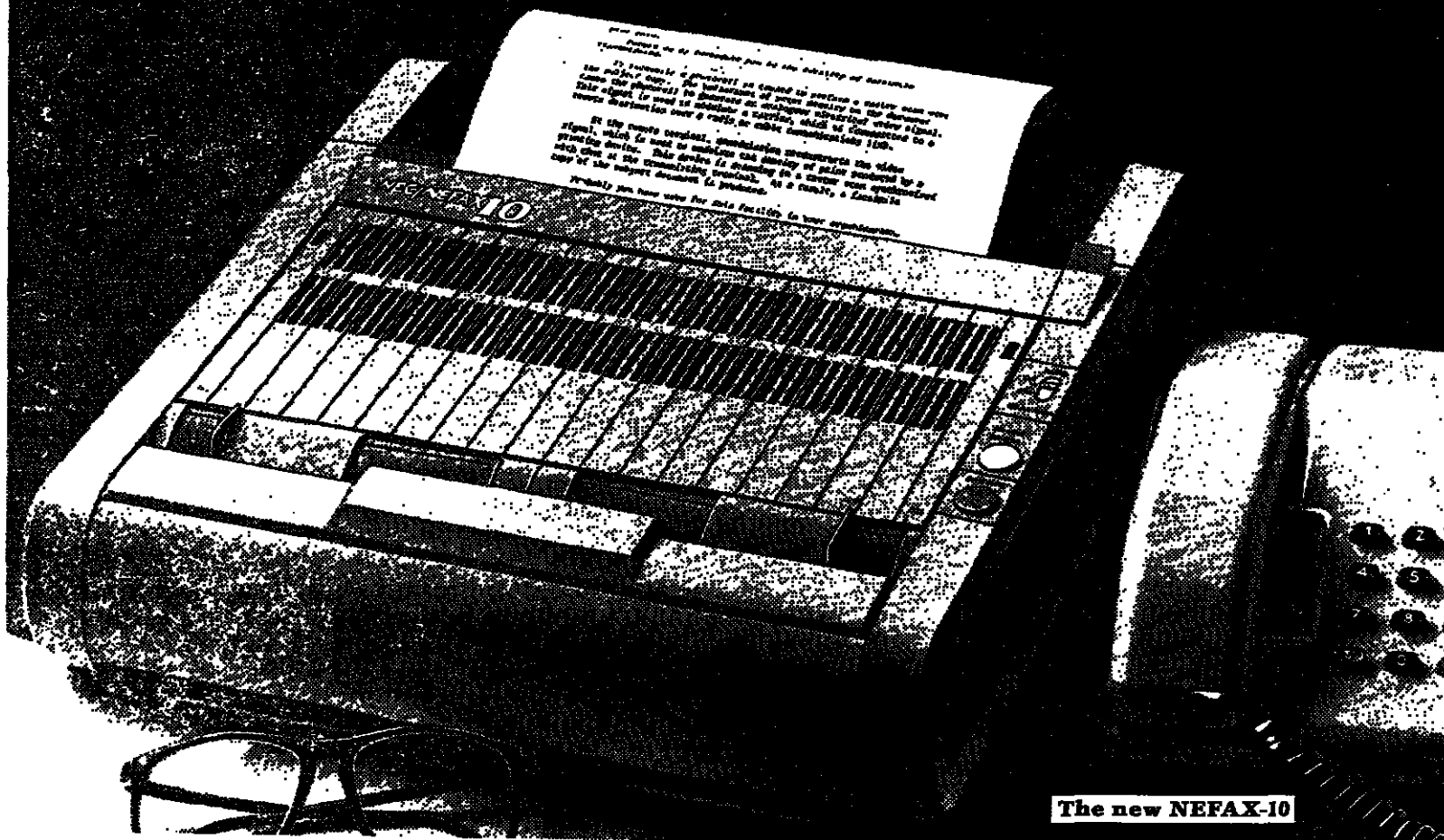
People in Guernica firmly believe that the Picasso painting inspired by the tragedy belongs to their town and should not be lodged in Madrid's Prado museum, where last month a daily average of 1,800 people went to see it.

Amid all the controversy it is pleasant to report that George Suer, *The Times* correspondent whose on-the-spot reporting first helped to nail Germany's responsibility for the bombing, has not been forgotten. A feature film, *Laaveta*, premiered in the Basque country at the weekend, includes a portrait of him on his mission.



Richard Nixon, left, and Henry Kissinger: Nato's greatest crisis could follow unwary acceptance of Gorbachov offer.

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Raid on Zambia 'a bungled poll stunt'

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Diplomats and other independent observers here are baffled by the armed South African raid into the Zambian town of Livingstone early on Saturday morning against alleged African National Congress "terrorists and installations."

A cross-border attack was not unexpected after recent warnings given by the Foreign Minister, Mr R.F. "Pik" Botha, that 150 ANC guerrillas were moving through neighbouring countries to disrupt the white general election here on May 6.

The warnings were seen widely as intended to embarrass the opposition Progressive Federal Party, which advocates legalizing the ANC and releasing from jail Mr Nelson Mandela, its leader, to enable it to take part in negotiations.

In newspaper advertisements over the past couple of weeks, Pretoria has played on the crude fear that a PFP government would hand over the country to the ANC. "Over my dead body would I vote for the ANC. So why vote PFP?" the advertisements ask.

At the same time, the Government is anxious to persuade conservative whites who may be thinking of voting for the extreme right-wing Conservative Party that it has not gone "soft", and will take military action whenever it sees fit.

As an election stunt, however, Saturday's raid does not seem to have been terribly impressive, and may possibly have been a bungled reconnaissance operation intended to set up a bigger attack.

The official version of the raid, put out by the Minister of

Defence, General Magnus Malan, is that the South African raiders were on an armed reconnaissance mission to investigate the use by the ANC of a "terrorist infiltration route from Zambia through Botswana."

"As a result of the threatening situation facing South Africa, regular reconnaissance is vital," General Malan said. "South Africa cannot afford to be caught off guard. It is obvious that a reconnaissance of this kind has to be carried out with weapons."

According to General Malan, "terrorists" were observed during the early stages of the reconnaissance, but no action was taken in order not to compromise the rest of the operation. But later the reconnaissance team was spotted.

This led to a skirmish in which "two terrorist guards" were killed. In a second engagement three more terrorists were shot dead in a house in the Dambwa suburb of Livingstone which General Malan claims was used as a weapons store by the ANC.

The Zambians say that the two "terrorist guards" were in fact nightwatchmen at the Zambia National Provident Fund building in the centre of Livingstone. The two men — not three as claimed by Pretoria — killed in the attack on the house were said to have been brothers with no link with the ANC.

Diplomatic sources said that there was some evidence the house might have been used by the ANC in the past, but that it had been vacant for some time, suggesting that Pretoria's intelligence was faulty or out of date.

Managua in new offensive

Managua (Reuters) — Nicaragua has launched a drive to stop Contra rebels setting up bases near Honduras.

Señor Humberto Ortega, the Defence Minister, said yesterday that Sandinista troops had launched the operation on Friday in mountains in Jinotega province. Government troops had killed, wounded or captured 1,500 rebels this year, he said.

Jet 'downed'

Algiers (AFP) — A Moroccan fighter jet was shot down in the Western Sahara, the Polisario Front said.

Asian quakes

Hong Kong (AFP) — Two earthquakes shook the Philippines and Indonesia but no casualties were reported.

Drug arrest

Larnaca, Cyprus (AP) — A Bolivian dancer was detained at the airport on charges of possessing 7 lb of cocaine.

Tornado toll

Dhaka — At least 25 people were killed and more than 5,000 made homeless as a tornado hit Bangladesh.

'Witch' killed

Delhi (AFP) — A factory worker beheaded a woman in Bihar, India, because he thought she was a witch casting spells on his ill son.

Correction

A report on April 11 from Indiana on the case of Paula Cooper, who is awaiting the death penalty, wrongly stated that no teenager had been executed in the US since 1920.

'Subway avenger' on trial

From Charles Bremner, New York

Goetz confident of being acquitted

More than two years after he shot four black youths on an underground train, New York's "subway avenger", Mr Bernhard Goetz, stands trial today confident he can justify his actions.

On Friday a Manhattan judge refused a last-minute attempt by Mr Goetz's lawyers to halt the long-delayed trial because of what they said was fresh evidence proving he acted in self-defence. "There comes a point where the need to keep this puzzle together outweighs my desire to accommodate," said Judge Stephen Crane.

The case sparked a passionate debate two years ago, with many people seeing Mr Goetz, a white engineer, then aged 35, as an innocent victim of urban crime who simply defended himself.

However, the simple morality of that picture clouded when details emerged and a grand jury indicted Mr Goetz

on charges of attempted murder and assault.

Mr Goetz, who lives in Greenwich Village, but could spend up to 25 years in prison, has been telling reporters he is sure the jury will find his actions justified.

"It's a lot better for me than two years ago. Public opinion has matured a great deal — a lot of people identify their interest more with me than with the people I shot," he said.

The facts are not in dispute. At lunchtime on December 22, 1984, four youths surrounded Mr Goetz on the Manhattan train and demanded \$5. They were not carrying weapons. Mr Goetz thought he was about to be robbed, pulled out an unregistered .38 revolver, and shot three youths with four bullets.

According to Mr Goetz's statement, he then turned to the fourth and said: "You

don't look so bad — here's another." He fired again, severing Darrel Cabey's spinal cord and leaving him paralysed.

The final question that the jury, which took four months to select, must answer is whether Mr Goetz was justified in using deadly force. The defence will try to show he believed he was being threatened and faced imminent assault.

The prosecution is likely to focus on his shooting of Cabey after the threat was apparently over. The four youths had criminal records and two are serving prison terms for crimes committed since the incident.

The judge is expected to allow evidence on three previous assaults which Mr Goetz experienced and on crime statistics in the subway system. The trial is expected to last a month.

WHICH BANK HAS THE FEWEST HOLD-UPS?

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Sri Lanka launches effort to divide Tamil militants

From Michael Hamlyn
Colombo

The Government of Sri Lanka is helping to institute a new focal point for Tamil militants called the East Lanka Liberation Organisation. Its target will not be the armed forces but the main terrorist group fighting for a separate Tamil state, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

A source close to Sri Lankan intelligence said the inter-ethnic warfare between Tamil militants, in which the Tigers have massacred almost 300 rivals, has led many former rebels to come over to the Government side. The new organization is expected to be operational in six weeks.

"All the terrorist groups other than the Tigers or Eros (Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students) now see the security forces as the lesser evil. The security forces will capture you if they can, and kill you if they can't, but the Tigers will kill you whether they capture you first or not," the source said.

It is claimed that the Eelam Revolutionary People's Liberation Front has been receiving clandestine assistance in its quarrels with the Tigers from the Special Task Force, a group of police commandos trained by former SAS men under the patronage of Ravi, the son of President Jayawardene. The force has helped by placing road blocks in areas

where the Liberation Front has been confronting Tigers' members.

The source added: "We have a very good understanding with the Liberation Front in Batticaloa and Amparai (two of the three districts in Sri Lanka's Eastern Province). And shall we say we are not looking for the front and Telo (another militant group attacked by the Tigers) in Jaffna?"

Forty turncoat rebels were already receiving some training from the Sri Lankan authorities, and 120 more had made themselves available.

"We are just refurbishing their information, knowledge and planning," the source said. "Some of our chaps

thought they were rag-tag. They wouldn't stand a chance against the Tigers if they went like that. So they are given a refresher course."

Sources also suggest that a number of Tigers are themselves becoming disenchanted with their leadership. The organization was founded by Mr Vellupillai Prabhakaran, a member of the Hindu fisherman caste from Velvetturai - "VVT" - on the northern coast of the Jaffna peninsula. Most of the Tigers' present commanders are his former school friends or neighbours. An official said: "Only the VVT coterie controls the Tigers. If you happen to be an easterner, you don't stand a chance."

cause, could once again be in control of policy.

The stepped-up security activity in the north and east of Sri Lanka has continued, with an important sweep by the Special Task Force, of British-trained police commandos, reported in the Batticaloa district of the Eastern Province. The STF commandos were reported yesterday to have captured the town of Erankulam, 18 miles north of Batticaloa, from guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the largest group of rebels.

Memorials honour victims of war



Wreaths in sea recall 44 killed off Corfu

From Mario Modiano
Corfu

Pilgrims from Britain sailed through the Corfu Channel in two Greek caiques yesterday to honour the memory of the 44 sailors killed 40 years ago. They died when two Royal Navy destroyers, HMS Saumarez and HMS Volage, showing the flag in this international waterway just after the end of the Second World War, struck newly-laid mines.

Some 100 survivors, next-of-kin, friends and shipmates were present. In the middle of the two-mile-wide waterway, in full view of the Albanian coast, a memorial service was held and six wreaths were thrown into the sea in an act of remembrance.

On Friday a new 4 ft white marble memorial, inscribed with the names of the 32 dead whose bodies were not recovered, was unveiled at the British Cemetery, where their 12 shipmates are buried.

But there was an undercurrent of discontent among the survivors and widows that this peacetime incident was quickly smothered and forgotten.

Mr Hugh Knowles, a first lieutenant navigating the Saumarez, said: "Widows received war pensions for a peacetime incident."

These grievances were reflected in the salute read out by Rear-Admiral Sir David Scott, who was first lieutenant on the Volage. He complained that the incident had received little publicity at the time.

The International Court of Justice in 1949 found Albania responsible for the explosions and the loss of life; it awarded Britain damages of £844,000.

When Albania refused to comply, Britain retaliated by withholding 2½ tons of Albanian gold, today worth some £23 million, which the Allies had found in Germany at the end of the War.

Discreet negotiations between Britain and Albania in Paris two years ago for an acceptable settlement petered out without result.

Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop, lower right, the distinguished Australian surgeon whose work for prisoners of war and courage in dealing with the Japanese have been widely acclaimed, and other former prisoners of war attending the dedication at Hellfire Pass, Thailand, yesterday of a new memorial to 16,000 Allied prisoners of the Japanese Army and 90,000 Asian labourers who died building the Burma-Siam railway.

The memorial, which was unveiled by Sir Edward, is a metal plaque fixed to the rock wall of the cutting, which was excavated by prisoners using primitive tools and bare hands during a period in 1943 when their captors were driving them around the clock to complete the line (Neil Kelly reports from Bangkok).

Power shifts in far North

Iceland's feminists may hold balance

Reykjavik (AP) - Mr Steingrímur Hermannsson, the Icelandic Prime Minister, conceded defeat yesterday in Saturday's general election, leaving left-wing feminists likely to hold the balance of power in negotiations to form a new government.

With most votes counted, Mr Hermannsson admitted defeat after the centre-right coalition of his Progressive Party and the conservative Independent Party emerged with 31 seats in the 63-seat Althing (Parliament). The two parties had 38 seats in the outgoing 60-seat Parliament.

The Women's Alliance doubled its tally to six seats and declared that it had the right to enter the Government.

Mr Hermannsson's Progressive Party did better than expected, losing one seat to finish with 13 seats.



Sigríður Kristmánsdóttir, Women's Alliance leader.

defeat was due largely to a split in the Independent Party. The breakaway Citizens' Party won victories at the coalition's expense, taking seven seats. The Independent Party, in its worst showing, had 18 seats instead of the previous 23.

Conservative asked to lead Finnish coalition

From Olli Kivinen, Helsinki

President Koivisto of Finland has asked Mr Harri Holkeri, a prominent Conservative Party leader, to form a new four-party coalition Government. It will include the Conservatives and the Social Democrats, the country's two biggest parties, and two non-socialist groups, the Swedish People's Party and the Rural Party.

Mr Holkeri will be the country's first Conservative Prime Minister since the Second World War. The coalition would assure a triumphant return to power for the Conservatives, who have been left out of all coalition governments for 21 years.

Political observers say there is little doubt that Mr Holkeri will succeed in forming a Government, as he has had extensive preliminary consultations with all parties concerned. The coalition programme is virtually complete, and the Government is likely to be sworn in on Thursday.

The new Conservative-led coalition is a radical change in Finnish politics, which have been dominated by centre-left coalitions in the post-war years; and the co-operation between Conservatives and Social Democrats will force the Centre Party into opposition.

It has held a focal position between left and right and has been a member of all post-war majority coalitions. As a result, the party has been enjoying more power than its 17 per cent share of the vote would warrant. But its power is derived partly from the fact that the late President Urho

Kekkonen, who dominated the country for a quarter of a century, was a member.

The edge of the new coalition is directed clearly against the Centre Party and its leader, the present Foreign Minister, Mr Paavo Vayrynen. He has described the new coalition as "unnatural."

The Communists, whose influence has been diminishing with every passing year, have also been left out of the coalition plans.

President Koivisto used his constitutional power to push through the new coalition when he asked Mr Holkeri on Saturday to sound out the possibilities of forming a government. His task turned out easier than expected because of the Conservatives' hunger for power and the Social Democrats' unwillingness to leave Government. In fact, they were eager to accept co-operation with their erstwhile adversaries.

The outgoing Prime Minister, Mr Kalevi Sorsa, leader of the Social Democratic Party, will be Foreign Minister, while the Conservative Party chairman, Mr Ilkka Suominen, will be Minister for Trade and Industry.

The coalition programme intends to keep foreign policy unchanged and to continue the present favourable economic policies. Great importance is attached to an extensive tax reforms.

Mr Holkeri, a professional politician aged 50, is a director of the Bank of Finland and served as Conservative Party chairman from 1971 to 1979.



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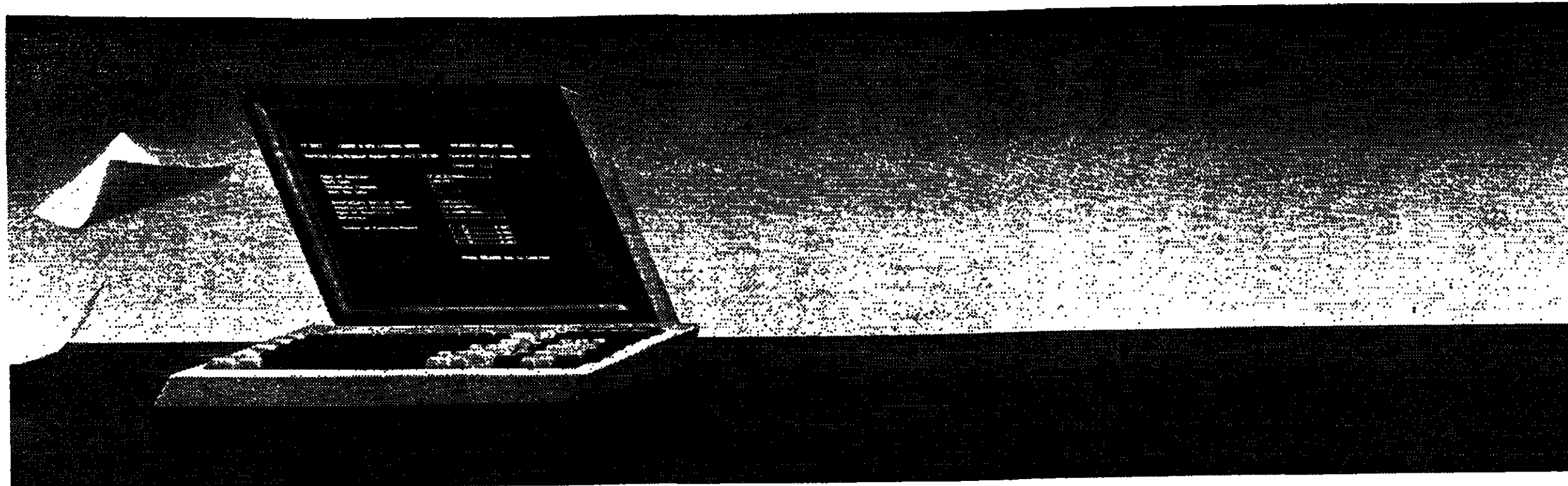


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Monthly Payments	£ 234.11	£ 259.86
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Cash Price**	£4,682.31	£4,682.31
Deposit (60%)	£2,809.59	£2,809.59
Amount of Credit	£1,872.72	£1,872.72
Monthly Payments	£ 78.03	£ 95.19
Charge for Credit	£ 0.00	£ 411.84
Total Amount Payable	£4,682.31	£5,094.15
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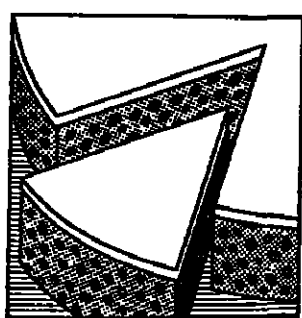
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SPECTRUM

The dabble your money game



A FAIR SHARE Part One: First-time investors

The verb "to dabble" has acquired a new lease of life. A lot of people are dabbling. According to the dictionary it means "doing something in a casual, desultory way". But in popular speech it refers to one specific activity: having a flutter on the Stock Exchange.

The dabbler-in-the-street has been officially steered away from the British Airways share issue. But Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, and others claim that the Government's privatization policy is turning Britain into a "shareholding democracy". An opinion poll after the British Gas sale suggested that there are nearly nine and a half million shareholders in Britain, which is only just under a quarter of the adult population.

The opposite view is that the millions who have made a quick killing from British Telecom and the rest are not real shareholders at all, in the old-fashioned, middle-class sense. They buy only to make quick profit. One had experience, or a down-turn in the market, and they would vanish. The Wider Share Ownership Council and the Stock Exchange itself estimate that only one and a half million people are dedicated equity investors, with a portfolio of shares.

Whatever the truth, one fact cannot be denied: there is an awful lot of money around looking for a safe and profitable home.

It is a strange, seemingly paradoxical fact that in the midst of poverty and economic depression there is a savings boom. Last year so many people bombarded the unit trusts with funds (£8.7 billion, nearly double the 1985 figure) that they have got hopelessly behind with their paper work. The BBC's *Moneybox* radio programme is supposedly of "minority interest", yet it has recently doubled its audience to one and a half million and gets 50,000 letters a year. The 250,000 visitors to the Money '86 Show at Olympia had an average of £40,000 to invest. One man even turned up bearing £90,000 in cash. Even time-share holiday property, a frivolous, luxury investment if ever there was one, doubled sales in 1986.

And then there is the phenomenon of the Stock Exchange. Not only is it breaking records, but it is digesting billions of pounds worth of

Before British Aerospace went public six years ago, few Britons knew how to buy a share. But now we are becoming a nation of shareholders — the latest flotation, of Rolls-Royce, begins next week. Pearson Phillips, examining the consequences of this radical change, begins a three-part series by meeting five newcomers to the money markets

new issues while doing so. True, it is being fuelled by the institutions, pension funds and trusts. But they, too, are largely handling individual people's savings.

So where is all the money coming from?

The economic storm is itself partly responsible. People who have never had capital before have found themselves with redundancy money or lump-sum early retirement payments. Even more significant are the large legacies being passed on by modest earners in the middle- and lower-income groups, thanks to the house price boom. The proceeds from houses bought for no more than £1,000 in the great suburban housing explosion between the wars are now passing into the hands of heirs, their value having multiplied by 60 or 70 times.

But has all this encouraged people to think of "having a dabble" in the notoriously uncertain stock market? Thanks to the 1,000 employee share schemes now in existence and the well-publicized privatization campaign, share-owning is no longer the forbidding process it once was. In April 1984, a poll showed that 38 per cent of the population didn't know how to invest in stocks and shares. After the British Gas sale another poll showed that the "don't know" figure had sunk to 14 per cent.

Does this mean that the share-owning democracy has arrived? As a talk with some of the new breed of shareholders revealed, things are not quite as simple as that.

FRAN GUTTELING

Fran Gutting, a freelance layout artist working in London publishing, has had the luck of the draw in her applications for government privatization issues. She started with 500 British Telecom shares and doubled her money by selling before the second instalment was due.

She got 300 TSB (at 50p), and would have sold them immediately when they rose to 85p if she had not been on holiday at the time. Now she is watching them creep back up above 80 again, and will sell when a friend who is a City

stockbroker gives her the word.

Then came British Gas, though it wasn't the "Sid" campaign which persuaded her. "As a gas user I got all the bumph, which made it so easy to apply that I could hardly not take it up." She got 500 and is once again hanging on, watching the price edging up through the 90s, hoping there is more to come.

"It's just a spare-time thing for me, but it's a lot of fun. I am a cautious investor, and can't afford to lose. It's never more than £250 a time, which doesn't make that much of a hole in my salary. It makes the financial pages of the newspaper more interesting to read. I've thought about buying other shares that appeal, but I would never bother

PRIVATIZATIONS — HOW INVESTORS HAVE MADE MONEY

	Date Sold	Issue Price	Day 1 Price	Premium	Fully Paid	Price Now	Profit/Loss	Spent £1,000/ Worth now
British Aerospace	Feb 81	150	171	+14%	150	632	+321%	\$4,213
Cable & Wireless	Nov 81	168	198	+17.8%	168	360	+114%	\$2,143
	Dec 85	300	295	-1.6%	300	360	+20%	\$1,200
Amersham Int	Feb 82	142	188	+32.3%	142	566	+299%	\$3,986
Britoil	Nov 82	100	81	-19%	215	240%	+12%	\$1,119
Assoc. British Ports	Feb 83	112	138	+23%	112	466	+316%	\$4,161
Jaguar	Jul 84	165	179	+8.4%	165	584	+254%	\$3,606
British Telecom	Nov 84	50	90	+80%	130	277	+113%	\$2,131
Trustee Savings Bank	Sep 85	50	85.5	+71%	part pd	83	+66%	\$1,660
British Gas	Nov 85	50	68	+36%	part pd	97	+94%	\$1,940
TOTAL								\$26,159

* Court ruling that TSB was owned by Government is being challenged by some investors ** Assumes £1,000 was invested in part-paid element

JOHN TAYLOR



Things do not, of course, always go right. John Taylor, a transport manager for the Laporte Industries chemical company in Lancashire, is one of the rare people who was not seduced by the privatization scheme. At the back of his mind was the fact, largely overlooked of late, that shares can go down as well as up. His wife was working at the National Westminster Bank at a time when some of her colleagues dabbled and lost. "It made me a little wary."

But he did take £500 worth of his own company's stock in an employee share scheme. He may buy more. Laporte is recovering after a sickly patch. "A sound long-term buy," said one recent broker's circular. That seems to have cured Taylor's caution. He is thinking of a dabble in British Airways.

ALBERT BUNBY

Albert Bunby, who is a scientific glassblower in the laboratories of Kingston Polytechnic, has what he calls "an attachment to banks". It began when his wife worked for the National Westminster, and bought NatWest shares in an employee share offer. "It was at the time banks were beginning to break out of their strait-jacket and do things which they hadn't done before. We did well."

A subsequent investment decision was taken on a camp site in France on holiday. "There was a TSB bank manager in the next tent, and he said that if we didn't apply for that issue we needed our brains examined." He got 700. The TSB share issue was obviously such a good thing that in some offices mass signings of forms were conscientiously carried out by all staff.

What could be called his financial strategy is formed from two main sources — "chat at work" and "a gut feeling". "Chat" encouraged him to apply, without success, for British Telecom, Laura Ashley and Geest. "Gut feeling" told him to avoid Virgin Atlantic, Cable & Wireless and Britoil. As for British Airways — "No thanks".

He likes to be in control. For that reason he would never consider unit trusts. He happily admits that "I would never understand a prospectus, even if I read one. My reasoning is simple. I think, well, if it's food, people have got to eat. If it's Guinness, who do I know that drinks the stuff? Nobody." Quite.

The privatization campaign has made him more and more interested. "Mind you, I don't know how I would feel if things started to go wrong..."

PETER SAUNDERS



Peter Saunders, a 44-year-old British Telecom engineer from Surrey, is living proof that a man doesn't turn into a capitalist boss's lackey by becoming a shareholder.

He has 75 British Telecom shares. But he is a Labour Party supporter, and would be happy to see the company re-nationalized. Not only that, but he approves of the industrial action which has steadily been knocking the pence off his own shareholding.

"The bosses have been throwing out hints that because we are shareholders we shouldn't expect too much of a wage rise." But to him a good weekly wage packet comes first and investment for the future a long way after.

"I am a today and tomorrow man," he says. "I accepted those British Telecom shares because I work there. But I wouldn't buy other shares. We like to live well and spend anything left over on a good holiday."

In fact, he has practised sound capitalism — modernizing his house has helped raise its value from £11,000 to £75,000 in just over 20 years.

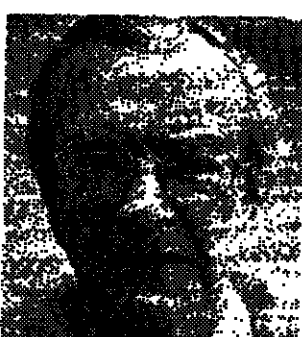
WENDY DORMER

Wendy Dormer of Cheam, Surrey, who is married with three children, is the chief cashier in a Midland Bank. Luck was in for her branch. "Everyone got shares in the TSB draw except the

manager," she said. The experience has not turned her into a member of the shareholding democracy. "I will take shares in my own bank's employee scheme, but lack of cash stops me buying anything else." She and her husband do save a regular amount. It goes into the Post Office.

Third man of peace

Of the trio who showed how life worked, Maurice Wilkins is the forgotten member



Maurice Wilkins: nuclear mission third person — Dr M.H.F. Wilkins, of King's College, London — and the story of his part in the race to unravel the secrets of DNA is told tonight in *Life Story*, a BBC 2 drama-documentary. After the Second World War, Wilkins had switched from helping to build the atom bomb to biochemistry. He subsequently showed Watson and Crick an X-ray photograph of DNA — the genetic messenger that passes on hereditary characteristics. This helped them

to build their renowned double helix model.

Maurice Wilkins is 70 now, and Emeritus Professor of Biophysics at King's. He is philosophical about the passion surrounding the search for DNA. "Many chefs are involved in the preparation of a famous dish," he says, "but it will be named after the chap who arranges it on the plate and serves it up."

He is delighted, however, that as a Nobel laureate he can travel the world to lecture on his favourite subject — the scientist's duty towards his fellow man. He believes that all civilization is being held hostage by the nuclear powers, whose attitudes are "more barbaric than those prevalent in the Middle Ages".

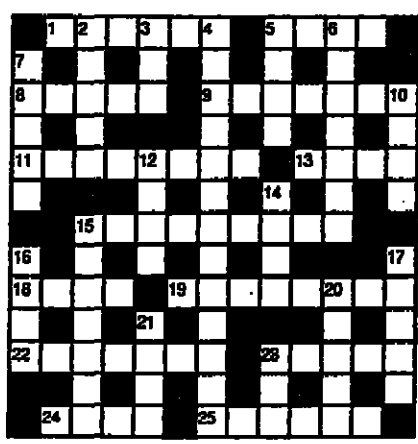
He adheres to no religion; but without spiritual guidance, he says, science could become (to use a 12th century description) "the blindness of hell". Wherever he goes — "in India I am a bit of a guru, but there are too many Nobel laureates in the UK, where intellectuals don't have too much standing anyway" — he expounds the case for nuclear disarmament.

Andrew Wiseman

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1242

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 - Agile, deft (5)
 - Inflame (7)
 - Compulsion (8)
 - Butress (4)
 - Waver (9)
 - Join up (4)
 - Rice, fish, egg dish (8)
 - Russian empress (7)
 - St Peter (5)
 - Woody, hollow (4)
 - Expunge (6)

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 - Wine tub (3)
 - Vivian (4,2,3,4)
 - Quaver (4)
 - Dome-shaped hair (7)
 - Carless (5)
 - Challenge (4)



- Vital stage (4)
- Large pointed tooth (4)
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- Toddler straps (3)
- Romulus's brother (5)
- Account (4)
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TOMORROW

Go West, new investor: a look at the booming share shops and how to choose a good broker

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MONDAY PAGE



Friends in need: Liz Robertson and dog — "It's hitting me harder now, I keep thinking, 'this time last year'. I'll be glad when the anniversary is over"

Living after Lerner

Liz Robertson was lyricist Alan Jay Lerner's eighth and last fair lady. She talked with Sally Brompton about the heartache of his death and the challenges on the road to recovery

Shortly after her husband's death, actress Liz Robertson spent an hour sitting alone in her car outside the first home they had shared in Chelsea. "I needed to do that," she explains, "just so that I could say 'okay, I've done that now. I've crossed that barrier'."

Since then, her life has been a series of barriers to be crossed. Landmarks passed, memories nudged to see how much they hurt. In the 10 months since her husband, legendary lyricist Alan Jay Lerner, died of lung cancer, she has tackled heartache head on. "I think it's now hitting me harder than ever because I keep thinking this time last year which is when it was all happening. I'll be very glad when the anniversary has gone by. I'm not remembering happy times now, I'm remembering awful times, painful times. I find that I get very tearful."

She has been fortunate in that she has worked steadily since Lerner's death, first in the stage thriller, *Killing Jessica*, and now in Frederick Lonsdale's *Thirties* comedy, *Canaries*. *Sometimes Sing*, which opens in London's West End tonight.

Curiously, they have been the first non-singing roles she has ever played, a fact which she attributes to fate. "When something dreadful happens I've always tried to find a reason for it. I can't believe you go through this pain if it's not going to help you to grow."

Her unintentional change of direction is just as well, since she has so far had little heart to return to the musical theatre which was so much a part of her married life. "I don't think I can do a musical for a while," she says. "It's too synonymous with Alan."

She met Lerner when she was starring as Eliza Doolittle in the London revival of his musical masterpiece, *My Fair Lady*, which he was directing. A professional relationship grew into a deep and genuine friendship and ended up with the *My Fair Lady* policeman's daughter and former chorus girl becoming the 62-year-old playwright's eighth wife. Despite a 35-year age gap, their five years of marriage were blissfully happy.

"He was an extraordinary man," says Robertson simply. "I loved being married to him." She finds it remark-

able that neither of them felt the need to adapt or compromise. "We really were exactly what we were. I felt I could say anything and do anything and he felt the same. That was why our marriage was so special."

"Everything I did I used to come home and discuss with him, and sing everything through with him. Singing does make me cry still. If I start singing everything closes up. It reminds me of Alan so much."

She is putting herself publicly to the test on June 7 when she will be singing one of her husband's songs from *Dance a Little Closer*, the musical he wrote especially for her, at a benefit to his memory which she has organized in aid of lung cancer research. It was, she admits, "a big decision. But I thought 'This is silly. I've got to get out there and start singing again. It was something I was blessed with and I can't suddenly shut the door on it because it makes me cry'."

She is refreshingly unactressy, seemingly unaffected by the enforced artificiality of her profession. She has never been comfortable with the regulation use of the word "darling" so beloved of her colleagues. "To me it means a lot if I call somebody 'darling'. I've only ever called Alan 'darling'."

She has been living since his death, with their two long-haired dachshunds, in a rented cottage in Chelsea. "I knew that it would be a massive mistake to try to buy somewhere so soon. Only now does she feel that the time is right to start house-hunting. Even so, being single again at the age of 32 has been a traumatic experience.

"I really loathe living alone. I loved being a twosome. Things which never really mattered before now matter — presumably because I felt complete with Alan and now I've suddenly realized that I'm not."

She has found, however, that she has once again started mixing with people her own age. "With Alan I went to restaurants which were that much grander and we didn't listen to Radio 1 a lot."

Having inherited not only Lerner's millions but the rights to his legendary songs, she is well aware of the potential hazards of her current status. "I realize that there is something glamorous about being a rich widow who was married to Alan Jay Lerner — although I can't see it myself. I hope I have common sense enough to recognise the fortune hunters. But it is hard and if you fall in love, don't you?"

"I hope I have enough sense to recognize the fortune hunters, but if you fall in love you fall in love, don't you?"

It is not a problem with which she has so far had to contend. "It's too soon. I've got to have at least this year to sort myself out and come to terms with what's happened. I think I'm putting up too many barriers anyway. If I go out to dinner with a man, he seems to realize that it's just going to be a nice chat and goodbye. I couldn't cope with anything else."

Besides, there is the problem of finding someone to match up to Lerner. "Not an easy man to follow. When you've had something so right anything less than that makes you think 'why am I bothering?'."

She thinks about him constantly, "everyday, all the time". One of the first tests she gave herself was listening to the radio. "A song would come on

and suddenly I'd think — 'goodness that was one of his'. But I've got to listen to the radio." She has not yet managed to watch any of his films — nearly all of which were on television over Christmas. "Also, I have videos of Alan which I haven't been able to look at. Not yet."

She coped initially by getting on with her life. "As soon as Alan died I was driving all over the country to see people just because I couldn't bear being by myself. I couldn't sleep at all to start with. So I'd spend the night talking on the phone to friends and relatives in America. It was a kind of madness. I've calmed down now, although I still panic at meal-times. I don't really like sitting here by myself."

She speaks of her husband in the present tense and still feels he is with her. "I talk to him all the time. When I'm looking at houses I find myself saying 'is this right for me? Do you think I should live here?'"

Recently she plucked up the courage to stay with friends at their favourite bolt-hole in Cornwall. "I was very worried about going back alone but I found total peace there." She could not, however, bring herself to return to the spot where she had scattered her husband's ashes, the place where he had proposed to her.

Now she is living totally for the present, taking each day as it comes. "When Alan was alive we had lots of plans about what we were going to do and what he was going to write and how I was going to be part of it. But events took over." She is, however, determined to ensure that her husband's name is never forgotten. "I just want to keep him up there. I want people to remember that he was the best. And he really was. But like all true geniuses he never realized it himself."

Of all Alan Jay Lerner's classics, her own favourite is a little known number from *Brigadoon* called "From This Day On". There is one particular stanza which always makes her think of him: *And someday if I should love it's you I'll be thinking of because you're all I'll see from this day on.* "That just about sums up the way I feel about Alan," says Robertson.

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Where Charlie is a nurse's darling

The salaries are bigger but life really so much sunnier for British nurses in Australia?

Sally Dugan reports

The Sir Charles Gairdner, Charlie's to its friends, is a large public hospital set on the affluent fringes of Perth in Western Australia.

Two years ago, facing an acute staffing shortage, the hospital advertised in Britain's *Nursing Mirror*. It has not needed to advertise since. Despite the Government's 9.5 per cent pay offer, more and more British nurses are being lured abroad by the prospect of better salaries and sunshine.

Australia is a popular destination: there are no special exams to pass and nurses are high on the Immigration Department's "most wanted" list. Of the 30,000 or so trained nurses who left the NHS last year, the best part of 2,000 ended up Down Under.

The Royal College of Nursing took its first tentative steps towards a work-to-rule this month. But five years ago the Royal Australian Nursing Federation abandoned its no-strike clause and has used its new-found industrial muscle to considerable effect.

What it has lost in public esteem by abandoning its caring image, it has gained in power and money.

Jo Thraves, who trained in Cambridge, has been working in Perth for a year. "If you go somewhere like Saudi Arabia, the money might be good, but it's just a year out of your life," she says. "If you come here, it's nothing but gain."

She lives with a group of nursing friends in a spacious Spanish-style villa in the suburb of Crawley, an area with a distinct edge of elegance over its British namesake.

At home in Britain, none of the group could afford anything more than the cheapest low-rent accommodation.

Although working conditions are undoubtedly better, a change of scene does little to beat the problems caused by the intense emotional strain of the job, coupled with the necessary routine of numbing tedium.

Nursing was Kathleen Dooley's life-long ambition, and she had thought her growing disillusionment was due to the hard-pressed British NHS. But after a year in Australia, the novelty has worn off, leaving the underlying problem unresolved.

"I've had a great time," she says, "but I'm not sure I want to spend the rest of my life washing people."

Jo Thraves has specialist training in cancer nursing from the Royal Marsden, which gives her an enviable choice of jobs. But she says simply: "Everybody is just demanding from you the whole time... it gets very hard to take."

Meanwhile, having found the grass only slightly greener on the other side of the world, Lucy Duncan is contemplating a move to pastures new — as a horticulturist.

to take all nurse training out of hospitals by 1990.

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Suntrap: Kathleen Dooley, Lucy Duncan, Jo Thraves

A swell party this isn't

I am not a great one for entertaining. In fact, my last husband took away the dining-room table with him and I've hardly missed it. Although I do manage how he is managing to cater for 12 on his highly-polished surface, since the only things he can cook are baked potatoes and junk.

I digress. What I really wanted to say is that I have discovered that it is not the choosing of guests, the cooking and the clearing-up that makes entertaining such a strain — it is the event itself.

This discovery was made last week when I had to arrange a literary banquet, the arrangement being simply to ask publishers to bring their authors along and have a jolly time. I didn't even have to make out the guest list — which was as well since I am famed for the disastrous soirées at which I try to pair off marriageable girlfriends with chaps who turn out to be what Nigel Davenport calls "confirmed bachelors".

I felt quite relaxed when guests rang me and asked what to wear. "Don't go to any trouble," I said. "The literary world can't tell a Saint Laurent from a St Michael."

Knowing better, they took no notice and headed for a shop called One Night Stand in the Piccadilly Road, which specializes in hiring out Alma Cogan numbers in net and



PENNY PERRICK

spangles. When the assembled company sat down together, so much light bounced off so many sequined bosoms, it looked as if we were trying to guide aircraft to a safe landing.

I do not know why the men gave me sleepless nights, since I wasn't cooking it and the *Graveyard Home* Hotel was. Nevertheless, it became a matter of life or death whether strawberry shortcake was a better choice than chocolate terrine. For all the time I spent worrying about it, I might just as well have gone in to the hotel kitchen and whipped up a trifle for 600 people.

Naturally, the food was delicious and if the chef dropped the salmon as he was

putting it on the plates (I don't suppose he did), nobody knew about it. Which is more than can be said for what happens at my house, where a loud crash is followed by a wailing moaning from the cook/hostess as she tries to retrieve the fish from the floor.

Even though I went around muttering "Pay attention to detail!" to myself and clutched a clipboard to my person for weeks beforehand, I forgot to tell the guests in which part of the hotel the banquet was being held.

A friend volunteered to stand at the main entrance and give directions, but she looked so glamorous in her chignon and low-cut black velvet that arriving authors thought she was a lady of the night and scuttled off before she could say "Turn left and take the lift." The morning after, I could hardly move and my voice was a hoarse croak. This was diagnosed as nervous exhaustion, even though I hadn't so much as polished a spoon or dabbled with a flower-arrangement.

Never again will I envy women who can afford to pay people to cook and battle for them. Since you can't hire somebody to do the worrying for you, being a hostess is going to remain a traumatic experience — even if you can have your hair done instead of piping egg mayonnaise on to the canapés.

A week in paradise is a long time

Is the traditional fortnight away from it all really a lifesaver — or do you need a holiday when you arrive back from your holiday?

Cary Cooper, a professor of psychology, takes his wife and four children to Scotland every year for their annual holiday. They drive to the same rented house and stay for exactly one week.

Bitter experience has taught them that any deviation from this format — a change of destination, another family alongside, a second week — and they are all potential candidates for his professional skills.

"People say they're going away to relax but just how relaxing is it? For a start it's probably the wrong time," says Cooper. "You might be depressed in February but generally you have to go on holiday in July or August, probably to please other members of the family."

"Before you go you have two days packing and fighting about who's taking what, then there's the awfulness of the journey itself, crammed into airports with thousands of others, travelling at weird times. It takes you two days to get over that."

Cooper, Professor of Organizational Psychology at Manchester University and one of

the country's leading stress experts, believes that being alone with one's family is far from soothing.

"With dual career couples it's still the woman who bears the brunt of domestic duties, so when she goes on holiday she tends to say she's off-duty and the man has to shoulder a greater share. That puts a strain on the marriage. Some people are completely unsuited to the traditional two-week break. Type As, who are ambitious and aggressive, will be hysterical because it can take them that long to unwind. I think most people's reaction when they get home is 'boy, do I need a holiday'."

Glossy brochures extolling the virtues of sun, sand and sea never refer to this dark side. There may be a light-hearted reference to Spanish tummy but not to the frequency of bowel disturbances among visitors to North Africa (60 per cent), nor to the fact that 2,250 travellers brought back malaria among their souvenirs last year, nor to the one-in-100 chance of contracting hepatitis in the Third World, nor to the risk of contracting Aids through



contaminated blood or through the re-use of needles in hospitals that do not ensure proper hygiene. Then there are the road accidents, drownings, heart attacks and spinal injuries that are the lot of thousands of luckless holiday-makers every year.

Dr Paul Clarke, director of the Medical Advisory Service for Travellers Abroad, says: "People don't want to consider these things when they are buying a fantasy and travel agents don't want anything that upsets the apple-cart."

MASTA, set up by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, provides data for visitors to 230 countries and lists 84 conditions and diseases which affect travelling.

They range from the mundane, which only spoil your holiday, to the much more dangerous, which might ruin your life. The further afield you go the more necessary it is to know about such hazards as rabies, Lassa fever, bilharzia, polio and altitude sickness.

For many the dangers arise not so much from where they go but from what they do when they get there.

Dr Richard Fairhurst, medical advisor to Medastra, the emergency rescue service's trade association, says: "People do things they wouldn't normally dream of. They take unaccustomed exercise; they stay out in the sun too long; they drink more and then they go for a swim or dive into shallow water."

Holidays were originally perceived as convalescence but nowadays they might make people worse than if they'd stayed at home."

But none of this will halt the trend, says Professor Cooper. Bookings are already 20 per cent up on 1986.

"I really don't know if holidays are worth it but we have to be seen to take a holiday. For many it's the justification for having to put up with the drudgery of a humdrum job."

Liz Gill

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FIGHT ACROSS BORDERS

The explosion which killed Lord Justice Gibson and his wife at the weekend is the first test of the quality of security co-operation between London and Dublin since the return to government of Mr Charles Haughey. It can be assumed that both sides will investigate the possibility that the intelligence which allowed the killers to pinpoint the couple's small moment of vulnerability with such precision came from a leak inside one of the police forces responsible for protecting them. But will the outcome of the investigations then be mutually satisfactory?

"Security co-operation," so frequently discussed in general terms and so rarely glimpsed in detail, is more than a matter of the mechanics of liaison between two forces and two armies. It is also a matter of trust. In this instance, the trust between the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the Garda Síochána will be rigorously tested. It is important that the results of that test should be made as visible as possible.

Terrorism is a problem throughout Ireland, although the great majority of terrorist acts are committed in the North. It is a problem in the whole island because the nationalist aspiration which the IRA claims to pursue has its home in the South, because the IRA have also posed a political and physical threat to democratic freedoms in the Republic and lastly because terrorists have gained some freedom of manoeuvre from the ability to switch between two sovereign jurisdictions.

It follows from this that Britain and the Republic need to act in concert to improve their action against an

organization which can mount attacks on 17 police stations and kill nine policemen in the space of less than four months. One of the principal gains which Britain aimed at in signing the Hillsborough Agreement was a better position from which to ask for improvements in the southern capacity to counter Republican terrorism.

Allowing the South a presence in the Belfast-based joint secretariat servicing the ministerial meetings has a less visible *quid pro quo* which works the other way. The strained economy of the Republic has devoted an increasingly large share of its resources to tightening security in the border area. But the real experience in counter terrorism techniques is possessed north of the border.

There is not only a rich field of opportunity for closer cross-border communication but there is a case for exporting some of the northern techniques and intelligence priorities southwards. The RUC has presented a shopping list to the ministers of both countries consisting of improvements which it considers can and should now be made. The response is not known.

It may well be that both governments will have to reassess the habits of generations and consider the possibility of making more information public about the fruits of security co-operation under the framework established by the Hillsborough Agreement. Recent experience shows clearly that security improvements between two countries can only be achieved by force of argument. The mechanisms of the Hillsborough Agree-

ment are the best forum yet devised for such discussions. The best contribution which politicians can make to the professional efforts to catch terrorists are to support those mechanisms. The lack of visible and concrete evidence of co-operation has had the natural effect of wearing down political support for the Agreement as a whole in the face of the atrocities which the IRA still has — and will have for some time — the capacity to commit. With this in mind, both governments should reconsider releasing some evidence of recent improvements in co-operation.

But politicians on both sides of the border will also have to drive home another lesson of the recent murders — and another one on which they have been inclined to be less than frank in the past. British politicians have a bad habit of underestimating the IRA.

This stems from several causes: ignorance, wishful thinking and an understandable desire to avoid any possibility that they might be construed as condoning the IRA's actions. The IRA no doubt contains cartoon incompetents. But their leaders, as soldiers and policemen who have dealt with them at close quarters will confirm, are experienced terrorists of considerable sophistication.

They remain fully capable of hitting well-protected symbolic targets in operations which require complex, long-term planning. Pretending that this is not the case leaves public opinion ill-prepared for what has to be a lengthy campaign, fought by governments supported by a realistic yet determined public.

THE INSPECTORS CALL

The school inspectors' report on the state of education in Brent is the strongest possible justification for the Government's planned Education Bill.

The Bill will not only impose national standards on schools — the core curriculum. It will effectively transfer the administration of the service in England and Wales from the 104 local education authorities — of which Brent is one — to the Department of Education and Science.

By coincidence, the extent of that variation emerges from the contrast between the inspectors' report on Brent and one they published a couple of weeks ago about another impoverished area: Labour-controlled Sheffield.

Sheffield, the inspectors said, "suffers from the social and economic disadvantage arising from very rapid industrial decline particularly in the steel industry. It has to cater for children from ethnic minorities and for the educational needs of a higher than average number of unemployed people."

Brent they described as being "faced with severe social and economic disadvantage. It has the third highest number of pupils eligible for free meals, and heavy youth unemployment."

Yet the inspectors interestingly concluded that education in Sheffield is "fundamentally sound and well", while Brent is failing to do the "basic job of educating pupils effectively, efficiently and conscientiously".

A SILENCED VOICE

While Western European governments pondered the latest Russian offers on disarmament, the massed voice of the unilateralists was unusually silent. The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament broke its tradition of Easter events and, instead, arranged Saturday's Hyde Park rally with the environmentalist group Friends of the Earth. Their primary purpose was not to raise the banner for disarmament, but to commemorate the first anniversary of the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl.

This is some indication of the low ebb at which the peace movement now finds itself. The idea of joining up with Friends of the Earth came from the organisers of CND. It suggests that, in wanting to put on a major show before the next election, CND's leaders considered the issue of nuclear power and the environment a more potent draw than their own traditional disarmament stance. Only during the last eighteen months of its existence

Brent had "quite unusual and undue levels of mistrust and resentment between the local education authority and its heads; between the authority and its teachers; between some heads and teachers; between schools and the personnel concerned with implementing the race relations policy; and between the schools and some parents (particularly those from ethnic minorities) and between parents and the local authority."

Another reason, hinted at above, is an influx into the authority of the sort of teachers who haunted our television screens during the NUT conference last week: would-be revolutionaries drawn to Brent by the opportunity of trying out their politics in a multi-racial setting.

But it is the parents of black children who have been voicing the loudest objections to this variety of social conditioning: they who are demanding the disciplined, mainstream core curriculum which would guarantee their children the qualifications necessary to get a job and keep them off the streets and out of the dole queues and prisons.

That Sheffield apparently succeeds where Brent fails is no reason for the Government to hesitate to impose agreed national standards. On the contrary, Sheffield shows that poverty and "several social and economic disadvantages" are not an excuse for a shamefully inadequate education, that clear policies and strong leadership can produce

reasonable schools in the most unprepossessing circumstances.

The problem is that the Butler Act's principle of a "national service locally administered" has failed to deliver an equality of educational opportunity.

Lord Young has provided the answer. Five years ago, he launched the revolution which the Tories' next Education Bill will be designed to complete. That was when the Manpower Services Commission — of which he was chairman — introduced first the Youth Training Scheme for 16 to 18 year-olds, and more significantly the Technical and Vocational Education Initiative in schools for 14 to 18-year-olds.

It was Lord Young — rather than the Department of Education — which did both without even consulting the local education authorities.

A centrally administered system, devolving significant powers to individual schools and governing bodies, will escape the vagaries and crippling inefficiencies of third-rate local councils paralysed by complacency or lurid politics.

It would eliminate the more exotic experiments in town halls and schools, help the development of a coherent national system of education, and stop the Brents in their tracks. This is not a matter of a bad case making bad law but of a bad case underlining the need to tackle bad practices, which have been permitted to flourish over the years in the spurious interest of defending local authorities' autonomy.

tence has CND paid any attention at all to the arguments against nuclear power stations.

Jumping on the environmentalist bandwagon may provide a useful new means of locomotion for the organisation. Its membership is declining. From a high point of 110,000 in 1984/85, membership has now fallen to around 80,000, and the fall is expected to continue. There are two reasons for this. First, the lack of a new issue to mobilise the forces of the anti-nuclear campaigners. During nearly 30 years of existence, CND has been prominent for only two periods, from 1958-64 and from 80-84. The issue during the first period was whether Britain should have the various weapons which culminated in the Polaris. Once Polaris had become a *fait accompli*, CND went into decline. Second time round, the issue was the arrival of Cruise and Pershing missiles. Once again, the installation of

the missiles led to general public acceptance, and the marginalisation of the peace camps.

The second reason for CND's present decline is the apparent success of the current western negotiating policy, resulting as it has in the possibility of a major arms reduction deal with the Russians. There are signs that even CND has recognised the unpopularity of the term "unilateral". For general use, the organisation now prefers to replace the expression "unilateral nuclear disarmament" by "independent nuclear disarmament".

The anti-nuclear campaigners may rightly claim that it is their efforts which made the issue of arms control a central one for western politicians. But the current unfolding of events hands all the plaudits to those who have negotiated from a position of strength. It does nothing to foster public belief in the wisdom of unilateralism.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

West's reaction to new Soviet policies

From the Director of The Royal Institute of International Affairs. Sir, I have just returned from leading a British delegation to the Soviet Union where we were able to talk on a variety of economic, political and social issues with a wide range of people in Moscow at a very high level; and also in Armenia, one of the Soviet Union's smallest republics.

Much has been written in your columns about the extent of internal change in the Soviet Union. I would only wish to add that it is difficult, without actually experiencing the atmosphere of the present debate in Moscow, as we were able to do, fully to appreciate the extent of the change, accompanied by much uncertainty, that is being generated in Soviet society.

From what I observed in Moscow, I have no reasonable doubt that the Soviet leadership has effectively taken the decision that they will in future work within the international system, which is basically "Western" and capitalist, and cooperate and compete with it, rather than work to disrupt and destroy it. However, it is also clear that they have not thought through all the implications of this, which are very great.

On coming to a view as to how the West should react to this situation, we need to take account of this more general change in Soviet intentions, as well as the more detailed interests of the West in the field of arms control. We should not be too hasty, and we do need to examine with care the "fine print" of proposed agreements.

Axed TV series

From the Right Reverend Mario Conti and others.

Sir, It is a matter of great concern to us that Channel Four has rejected the television series, *Jesus — Then and Now*, on the ground that it is of poor quality (report, April 22, early editions). The series was originally commissioned by the Trinity Trust, an ecumenical charity of which we are patrons.

It would appear to many to be disingenuous for Channel Four Television to suggest that this series is in any way partisan. It is quite the opposite and represents an introduction to the historic Christian faith, as it has been understood down the centuries.

Since its inception Channel Four Television has made it a policy to present the views of minority groups. In the case of religion this has meant programmes like "Jesus — The Evidence" and "The First Christian" which did so much to

undermine faith and represented the views of no one other than their originators. Any enlightened and broad-minded person will accept that broadcasters have a duty to reflect various points of view. Within the Christian context it must surely be time for the orthodox Christian faith to be given a fair hearing. As far as we know, *Jesus — Then and Now* is the only British-made programme series currently available that can do this in an open-minded and balanced way.

Yours faithfully, MARIO CONTI (Roman Catholic Bishop of Aberdeen), DEREK RAWCLIFFE (Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway, Scottish Episcopal Church), THOMAS F. TORRANCE (former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland), KENYON WRIGHT (General Secretary, Scottish Churches Council), The Trinity Trust, PO Box 5, Hay-on-Wye, Powys.

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prepared to give any alternative definitions of low pay or poverty of a precise kind so that your readers can make up their minds which they prefer or which carries greatest weight. That was exactly the problem posed by Mr Norman Fowler when he rejected the Beveridge subsistence standard of want in his 1985 review of social security.

Neither do you seem prepared to discuss contemporary evidence of poverty with care, or to come to any reasoned conclusion about that evidence. In 1987 surely it is insufficient to continue to resurrect quotations from eighteenth-century classical economists as a substitution either for analysis or policy?

Yours etc, PETER TOWNSEND, Chairman, Child Poverty Action Group, 1 Bath Street, EC1.

Low pay politics

From the Chairman of the Child Poverty Action Group.

Sir, Your editorial of April 16 challenges the kind of evidence being produced by the Low Pay Unit and other groups like "the Child Poverty Action Group, Youth Aid and the Unemployment Unit" on grounds that the definitions of "low pay" or "poverty" being used are unrealistic or absurd, and that they are motivated by ideology rather than by any objective concern with the facts.

Such bodies do not need to demonstrate their independence of party. The record shows their commitment to the facts about poverty irrespective of becoming, on occasion, thorns in the side of successive parties in office. This is more than most newspapers, including your own, can claim. It is difficult to respect your

On the right lines

From Mr James McKerrrow.

Sir, I read with interest that Sir Geoffrey Howe has asked Mr Edward Shevardnadze if he could have one of his steam engines, a 4-8-4 Pacific. You report (April 18) that it would be necessary to build a special track. Not at all. The locomotive could be brought here to Bangor from where it could steam to Belfast, Portrush, Dublin, and anywhere else in Ireland, North and South, where the tracks run. Due to an English adjudication in the reign of Victoria, Irish railways have the same gauge as Russia. Perhaps the adjudicator foresaw this opportunity. Yours sincerely, JAMES MCKERRROW, 38 Mario Park, Bangor, Co Down.

Schoolboy boxing

From the Rector of Swindon.

Sir, Mr Russell Wood (April 10) in his admirable defence of property

controlled and carefully refereed schoolboy boxing, states, *inter alia*, that it teaches "the benefits of self-control in times of crisis". It does more; it teaches a stronger person to stand back when his competitor's defences (gloves) are down.

During my last year at prep school I boxed a friend who had also won his way to the final round in our weight. When, years later, I was selected to box for Oxford University against Sandhurst, my opponent who stepped into the Sandhurst corner was my friend, whom I had not seen since we were last in the ring together at prep school. On neither occasion was there any antagonism. Rather was there courtesy and a refusal to take advantage of the other's temporary disadvantage.

I lost both the aforementioned bouts. Yours sincerely, MICHAEL BENNETT, Swindon Rectory, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

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I lost both the aforementioned bouts. Yours sincerely, MICHAEL BENNETT, Swindon Rectory, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Fears of abuse on extradition

From Professor T. St J. N. Bates. Sir, It is a widely held view that the failure to extradite the 26 Liverpool football supporters (report, April 14) can be rectified by starting fresh extradition proceedings. It is certainly the case that where a court holds that there is insufficient evidence to extradite it is possible to return with further evidence in subsequent proceedings.

However, in the instant case the divisional court has held that there has been a failure to comply with an additional procedural protection in article 5 of the Belgian Extradition Order in Council, namely a time limit of two months, from the date of arrest, for sufficient evidence for the extradition to be presented.

Article 5 is intended as a procedural protection for the accused and it is in absolute terms; if there is a failure to comply with the time limit "the person arrested shall be set at liberty". No doubt an argument could be made that there is a distinction in the Order in Council between the requirement simply to set an arrested person at liberty and the more explicit prohibitions on surrender. Nevertheless, in my view, however unfortunate the consequences may be seen to be in this case, it would be an abuse of this extradition procedure to allow the protection of article 5 to be removed by permitting fresh extradition proceedings.

The point is perhaps reinforced by reference to the other limb of article 5. The article also provides that the person arrested shall likewise be set at liberty if, within two months of the day he was placed at the disposal of the Diplomatic Agent, he shall not have been sent off to the receiving country (emphasis supplied).

Suppose that the extradition had been authorised by the end of April and the Belgian authorities forgot to book a flight for the detainee until early July. Would it be lawful to rectify the error by starting fresh extradition proceedings? For those that consider it would be lawful, would their view be the same if the question were posed with reference to section 12 of the Extradition Act 1870, which provides a parallel protection?

Yours faithfully, T. ST J. N. BATES, University of Glasgow, Department of Public Law, Stair Building, 5-9 The Square, Glasgow, April 15.

Raising the roof

From Mr Cecil Gould.

Sir, I wonder how much longer a section of the public will put up with the designers of modern cars apparently catering for athletic dwarfs? The car in which I travel — not a "mini", incidentally — measures less than 4ft from floor to ceiling.

As I stand 6ft 4in in my shoes I must suppress a third of my height in order to get in at all. But when I have, somehow, managed to do this things are little better. The seats are about 18 in from the floor. But the distance from my knees to the soles of my shoes is about double that. Consequently my legs assume the attitude of a grass-hopper's.

As my thighs, instead of being horizontal when seated, are forced into an angle of about 45° the contents of my pockets fall out. The modern car is thus in effect the equivalent of those "chambers of little ease" in which the victim could neither stand nor sit.

I think such discomfort is a high price to pay for what the designers think of as "appearances", and I would challenge their ingenuity to find a way of combining this with comfort.

Yours, CECIL GOULD, Jubilee House, Thorncombe, near Chard, Somerset, April 22.

Care of children

From Mr Peter Wilson.

Sir, Mr Batten (April 14) should realise that in French schools, although the pupils may be in school from 8am to 5pm, the teachers are required to be there only when they are timetable to teach.

French teachers are *professeurs*, not child-minders. Yours etc, PETER WILSON, 9 Kingshill, Porthcawl, Mid Glamorgan.

should be taken? I suggest these three industries are much too important to be left to "market forces" or as part of a brief of a relatively junior minister of a levitation Department of Industry.

Is it too much to ask that a senior minister be appointed as Minister for Shipping and Shipbuilding, with precise terms of reference to analyse the needs and facilities of these industries and that an agreed national policy be implemented?

Such a move would at least indicate that HMG does no longer regard these industries as Cinderella and sacrificial industries and that we can at last differentiate between a declining and a dying industry. Yours faithfully, ROBERT ATKINSON (Chairman, British Shipbuilders, 1980-84), Southwood House, Itchen Abbas, Winchester, Hampshire.

ON THIS DAY

APRIL 27 1923

On the previous day the Duke of York, who later became King George VI, was married in Westminster Abbey to Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, now the Queen Mother. Crowd scenes perhaps not saying very much, but pleasantly written, are expected of a newspaper on such occasions.

THE ROYAL WEDDING.

GREAT LONDON GREETING.

THE DUKE AND HIS BRIDE.

... Since early morning they had been assembling, and for long hours, with no outward sign of weariness, they had waited. Every window on the route was full, every railing had its staunch adherent, and backs peeped out between the legs of statues. The pedlars' trade was thriving, supported by the pedlars' wit, for, when the clock yet stands midway between the time you got up and the time at which the procession will pass you, any joke is a good joke and chocolate acquires a glamour. There were, too, profitable dealings in sugar-boxes that stood perilously on end and in costers' barrows which, for all the chocks of wood that were put under them, had a dangerous habit of tilting or of crumbling disastrously at the edges if their human burden moved uncautiously. But no one minded. No one minded even when a "loose corner" such as the Horse Guards, the mounted police, with admirable gentleness, pushed the crowd back with the flanks of their horses and caused a great overturning of sugar-boxes. It meant a few yards' withdrawal in good order and good temper, but soon Patience was re-established on its monument, smiling at smothering.

THE BRIDE'S DAY.

Perhaps no crowd can so well combine a holiday with a great occasion as a loyal crowd in London. It is quiet until there is an opportunity to cheer, when it straightaway cheers with all its strength. It is happy, it is casual, it chooses its own favourites, and it has the warmest of hearts. Yesterday the King and Queen, and everywhere a great reception. Queen Alexandra was met with a storm of cheers in which present affection and long-held memories were mingled; and, whether he was on his way to the Abbey with the Duke of York and Prince Henry or returning from it with the King and Queen, the Prince of Wales was, on all sides, greeted by name. The Duke himself, loved for the work he has done and honoured for the work to which he looks forward, was the focus of all the thousands who flourished their hats and waved their handkerchiefs and stood tip-toe to see him pass. But, for all this, London remembered that this was the Lady Elizabeth's day, and had its own welcome ready for her. She looked out from the window of the carriage in which she drove with her father to the wedding; she looked out, smiling, again, when she returned at her husband's side.

THE CHILDREN'S VIEW.

Small children who had no programmes to inform them of the order of the carriage, and were, perhaps, sceptical of the information given them by their elders, concentrated their attention on the soldiers and the coachmen, and, if their perch was high enough, on the glistening wheels. If they could see nothing else, they could at least see the helmets of the escorts, and rejoice when, at each corner of the route, they wheeled on so neatly as if the movement were being conducted on the floor of a nursery. Or, being among the fortunate who were hoisted shoulder high and shared the perils of a coster's barrow, they could look down the wide spaces of roadway, which, when traffic is cleared from them, seem to have been enlarged beyond belief. They could see the carriages as they came away from the Abbey with red blocks of cavalry surrounding and separating them; they could see how, along the crowds that lined the route, the vague, jumbled movement of hats and handkerchiefs and white papers advanced as the procession advanced.

They will be able to say, too, even if the details of the Duke of York's wedding pass from their minds, that they were the witnesses of something more than an English holiday and an English welcome, for yesterday all London had in it something of romance and something of adventure, and gave to the Duke and his bride a national endorsement of their mutual choice.

Chirpy to the last

From Mr Geoffrey Ade. Sir, Curfew hute all day and all night. So surely they must win on both counts "first" and "last" (Letters, April 21, 24).

Yours, GEOFFREY ADE, Montcalm, Lon Isalt, Trearddur Bay, Anglesey, Gwynedd, April 22.

From Mr Mark Wynn. Sir, I guess our resident pair of tawny owls duetting at 4.30am don't count, but perhaps the robins may. They equally are cheerful songsters who do not close down at night, and are far more often heard at night than any nightingale of southern Britain. Yours faithfully, MARK WYNN, 80 Sylvan Avenue, Timperley, Altrincham, Cheshire, April 21.

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COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CIRCLE
April 26: A Contingent of Queen's Scouts and holders of Scout Gallantry Awards attending the National Scouts Service in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle were inspected by The Queen in the Quadrangle of the Castle this afternoon.

Mrs John Douglas and Lieutenant-Commander Timothy Laurence, RN were in attendance.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Geoffrey Haworth will be held at St Oswald's, Lower Peover, Cheshire, at noon today.

A service of thanksgiving for the lives of Major-General and Mrs P.R.C. Hobart will be held at St Michael's, Chester Square, at noon today.

A memorial service for Mr Henry J (Jack) Heinz II will be held in the Grosvenor Centre, Cardiff, at 2.30, and the Llanishen Leisure Centre, at 3.40; she will open the Wales National Ice Rink and, as President of the National Fund for Research into Crippling Diseases, attend a charity performance, at 7.20.

Princess Anne will open the new laboratories at ICI's Plant Protection Division, Jealton's Hill Research Station, near Bracknell, Berkshire, at 2.30; and will attend the annual dinner of the Freight Transport Association at the Hilton hotel, Park Lane, at 7.10.

Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester will attend the "Spring Celebration", in aid of Birthright, at the Savoy Hotel, at 7.30.

The Duchess of Gloucester will open an exhibition to mark the 100th anniversary of the City of Odesa at Brickwork Sports Centre, St Albans, at 10.20; and will visit the National Children's Home Headquarters at Highgate Park, N4, at 2.00.

The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, will visit Marconi Electronic Devices, Groundwell Industrial Estate, Swindon, at 10.30; and Roburagony Systems, Cheney Manor Industrial Estate, Swindon, at 11.40, then lunch with the Swindon Chamber of Industry and Commerce at the Blunsdon House Hotel, Swindon, 12.15.

Anniversaries
BIRTHS: Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin, pioneer of women's rights, London, 1759; Herbert Spencer, philosopher, Derby, 1820; Ulysses Grant, 18th president of the USA 1869; John F. Kennedy, President of the USA, 1917; Edward Whymper, first man to climb the Matterhorn, London, 1840; C. Day Lewis, poet laureate, 1968-72; writer as Nicholas Blake of detective stories, Bellingham, Co Sligo, 1904.

DEATHS: James Bruce, explorer of Africa, London, 1794; William Macready, actor-manager, Cheltenham, 1873; Alexander Scriabin, composer, Moscow, 1915; Hart Crane, poet, Garrettsville, Ohio, 1932; Kwame Nkrumah, first president of Ghana 1960-66, Bucharest, 1972.

Felixstowe College
Summer Term at Felixstowe College begins today. The old girls' reunion will be on Sunday, July 12. Any old boys wishing to attend the reunion should obtain a ticket by contacting Mrs D. Falle at the school (0491) 651438.

Pipers Corner School
Summer Term begins today at Pipers Corner School, Kingshill. The school production of *The Gondoliers* will take place on July 3 and 4. Parents' day, Saturday, July 11, has Barbara Gardner of Park as the principal guest and speaker.

Hurst Lodge
Hurst Lodge School re-opens today for the Summer Term with Rosemary Hutchinson continuing as head girl. Open day is on Friday, July 10, and old girls are most welcome to attend. Old girls should contact Mrs Linda Withers of the Past Pupils' Association at the school. The school's and Association's charity will be the Anastasia Trust.

Moulsham Preparatory School
Summer Term began at Moulsham Preparatory School on April 22. Nicholas Burn is head boy and Marcus Day is captain of cricket. Half-Term is from May 25 to 29. Term ends on Thursday, July 9 with a commemorative service followed by prize-giving. The guest of honour will be Mr Richard Morgan. Headmaster of Cheltenham College. The Parents' Association summer ball will

take place on Friday, July 10 and the Old Boys' reunion is on Sunday, July 12. Any old boys wishing to attend the reunion should obtain a ticket by contacting Mrs D. Falle at the school (0491) 651438.

St Peter's School, York
Summer Term begins today at St Peter's School, York. The school examination is on May 11 and 12. The school choir and orchestra will give a concert in chapel on July 3. Term ends with commemoration on July 11 when the preacher at the Minister service will be the Rev Roger Royle and the guest of honour, prize giving will be by Major-General C.R.L. Guthrie, General Officer Commanding North East District.

The Oratory School
Summer Term at The Oratory School begins today. The school captain is G.D. Stevens. Open day will be on Saturday, May 30, followed by half-term until June 3. On Sunday, May 24, Mass will be celebrated by the Apostolic Pro Nuncio. The celebrity recital will be given on June 14 by Kun Woo Park. Term ends on July 10.

Wellington School
Trinity Term at Wellington School begins today and ends on July 10. Open day and Old Wellingtonian summer day are on Saturday, July 4.

There will be a memorial service for Mr J.H. Oughton on Saturday, June 13, at 3.30 pm in chapel.

Wilson's School
Trinity term at Wilson's School begins today and ends on July 11. Half-term is from May 25 to 30. J.S. Pay remains school captain and is also captain of cricket. Sports day is May 22. A meeting for parents of boys joining the school in September will be held on the evening of June 18.

Memorial service
Professor J.A. Steers
A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Professor Alfred Steers was held at the University Church of Great St Mary's, Cambridge, on Saturday. The Rev Dr Andrew Lennox-Coyneham, Chaplain of St Catharine's College, Cambridge, officiated. Mr James Steers, son, read the lesson and Mr David Keeble gave an address. The Bishop of Ely was represented by the Ven J.S. Long, who was robed and in the Chancel. The Master of St Catharine's College and Mrs Supple and Professor Michael Chisholm were among those present.

St Edmund's College, Ware
Term at St Edmund's College, Ware, commences today. Half-term is from May 24 to May 31. Captain of cricket is Alex Uyt den Bogard (Stapleton House).

Clifford Longley

Dangers in holding the middle ground

A group of church leaders is meeting shortly to consider, in the light of the impending general election, what if anything they should contribute to the political process by way of guidance to their flocks.

It is a routine problem for churchmen, most of whom have lived through more than a dozen elections. And they will as usual try to steer between being too general and platitudinous and being too specific and political.

What is more novel, and makes their difficulties more interesting, is that yesterday's platitudes and the recycling of the old but the new-but-old Butskellite consensus have become today a party political platform known by the initials SDP.

For since the late seventies both the traditional parties have moved from the centre ground to left or right, so that ground which was once safely neutral is now more usually seen as controversial.

Thus in particular the Church of England now looks to the Conservative Party like a political movement of the centre-left, not because the church has necessarily moved at all but because the Conservatives have moved right.

The Reith Lecture by Dr Edward Norman in 1978 can now be seen as prophetic in the popular meaning of the

word. They were painfully received by the churches precisely because they suggested that being centre-left was not the same thing as being neutral or even as being Christian, but was a distinct and chosen ideological position which should be challenged.

It was a truth which had been hidden by the Butskellite consensus, a package of policies and attitudes which hid from all men had held to be self-evident.

His charge was that the churches rested their basic assumptions about social policy on what they thought were theological principles, but which were in fact mere reflections of secular attitudes.

Mr Eric Heffer and Mr John Gummer, the Labour and Conservative MPs who have just joined forces with Liberal MP Alan Beith to write *Faith in Politics* (SPCK £2.50), are not regarded as leading political thinkers even by their own party colleagues. But they may be taken as representative of this breakdown of consensus.

Mr Heffer argues for socialism as the right road to the Kingdom of God, and Mr Gummer points in the opposite direction.

The tension between their arguments is the tension between state-imposed collectivism and state-imposed individualism, and they are to

a degree contradictory positions incapable of being brought under the umbrella of one reconciling formula.

What they have in common is that the organising of human society is assumed to be the speciality of politicians, to whom it is entrusted by the rest.

There is an underlying reason for the apparent desertion of the post-war consensus, namely that the real object of the political effort, the elimination of the raw and throbbing poverty of the thirties, has largely been achieved. That the Christian social conscience had a major role in that development can hardly be doubted.

A new layer of problems is seen to be present, while no consensus exists even as to their nature, let alone their solution. And the Christian social conscience is no longer sure what it ought to be nagging about.

There is a shallowness of debate in contemporary political philosophy in Britain, which may explain the emergence of single-issue politics and of Trotskyist or new-right extremism, as channels for a political version of religious enthusiasm.

What British politics lacks to give it back its passion, is a real and conspicuous moral enemy to be fought. And a

similar frustration invades church thinking on social questions.

If economic recovery and European nuclear disarmament banished unemployment and the bomb, British general elections would not be about real moral choices at all, not even the choice between Hefferism and Gummerism.

The parties do not really offer the electorate alternative views of the nature of Man, but alternative management teams both wishing to manage the corporation called Britain.

Religious institutions can have nothing to say about such purely practical judgments. This could present a unique opportunity to the churches to move into the philosophical and moral vacuum by changing the subject and insisting that there are more important things in life than politics, an essentially trivial pursuit.

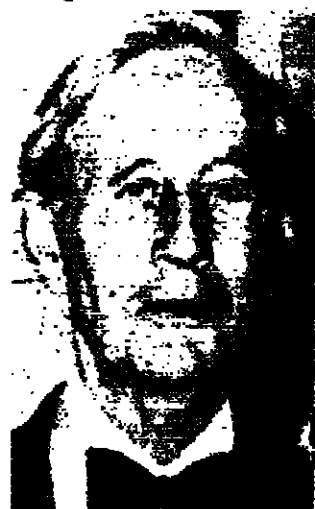
People would respond. But first the religious institutions, particularly the Church of England, would have to lose their reputation for political activism at the margin of party politics, perhaps by pronouncing all parties as equally irrelevant to the more important things in life.

The real danger of the thinking represented by Messrs Gummer, Heffer and Beith is that they all believe

OBITUARY

LORD JUSTICE GIBSON

Distinguished and fair-minded judge



Lord Justice Gibson, whose death, at the age of 73, occurred in a terrorist explosion on April 25, was, since 1975, a Lord Justice of Appeal, Supreme Court of Judicature, Northern Ireland.

As a judge he displayed an equitable temperament, inspiring trust as well as affection, giving the good points a fair hearing and dealing politely but firmly with the bad. Completely independent, he never displayed his virtuosity, but used his outstanding gifts with impartiality and moral authority.

Maurice White Gibson was born on May 1, 1913. He was educated at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution and Queen's University, Belfast. He graduated in 1937 and was called to the Northern Ireland Bar in the following year.

As a pupil of Bernard Fox, an able and careful leader with an extensive practice, Gibson added to his intellectual equipment and legal knowledge the practical wisdom and technical excellence for which, no less than for his academic prowess, he was admired.

At a time when a big practice was neither easily nor quickly achieved, he devoted his early years partly to law reporting, thereby enhancing his insight.

Before taking Silk in 1956 he had a large and high-class practice, and was junior counsel to Belfast Corporation and the Ulster Transport Authority. Both bodies retained him thereafter, and his services were widely sought in every kind of civil litigation.

Among his many notable cases was the Campbell College valuation appeal, in which a hallowed, wrong decision of 50 years' standing was reversed by the House of Lords.

When, in 1968, a High Court vacancy occurred, Lord MacDermott described Gibson as "the best lawyer at the Bar". His elevation was universally approved.

He was chancery judge for seven years and a Lord Justice since 1975, when he was made also a privy councillor and received a knighthood.

He served on several government committees, and from 1971 to 1975 was a member of the Restrictive Practices Court and deputy chairman of the Northern Ireland Boundaries Commission.

The restored prosperity of *The Northern Ireland Legal Quarterly* owes much to his chairmanship. He possessed a keen financial ability, which benefited the funds of the Inn, of which he was elected

Bencher in 1961.

He married, in 1945, Cecily Johnson, who perished with him. She was his dear and constant companion throughout their marriage, so cruelly ended. They are survived by a son and a daughter.

MR ERIC KNIGHT

Mr Eric Knight, financial entrepreneur and founder of Lombard Banking, died on April 23. He was 79.

Eric John Percy Crawford Lombard Knight was born on August 17, 1907. (He later added "Lombard" to his list of Christian names.) He was educated at Ashford Grammar School, and was apprenticed to be a motor engineer.

He was fond of riding high-powered motorcycles until a tree stepped onto the road and stopped him. He then spent five years as a salesman selling Mercedes, but again landed in hospital following an accident.

Just before the war he joined the Bowater finance house as a hire purchase man - an appointment which set the course for his later business career.

After spending the war years in the RAF, he went back to his old firm. But it was a short-lived return, and he left in 1947 to launch Lombard Banking Limited, a small newcomer to the financial world.

Though he built up the group by his own efforts, he owed much to two milestones in post-war business history. Nationalization brought him a big shareholder in the shape of Cable and Wireless.

The credit squeeze, meanwhile, gave him a further chance to expand. By offering the public attractive rates of interest for deposits, he met

REV IAN THOMSON

The Rev J. S. Reynolds writes: Your telling notice of the Rev G. I. F. Thomson (April 16) omitted one facet of his many-sided ministry - his connection with the Oxford Pastorate (an organization designed to supplement the care for undergraduates given by the evangelical parishes of the city).

Together with his other duties, Mr Thomson was also an Oxford Pastorate chaplain from 1938 to 1946.

His first published work was a useful history of the Oxford Pastorate.

Marriages

The Hon T.C. Shaw and Miss K.A. Floyd
The marriage took place on Saturday in the Chapel of Our Lady of the Snows, Prior Park, Bath, of the Hon Thomas Shaw, eldest son of Lord and Lady Craigmyle, The Boltons, London, SW6, and Miss Alice Floyd, second daughter of Mr and Mrs David Floyd, of Priory Close, Combe Down, Bath.

Mr A.H. Swinton and Miss E.L. Carbutt
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Mary's, Dedham, Essex, of Mr Alexander Harold Swinton, second son of Major-General Sir John and Lady Swinton, of Kimmerghame, Duns, Berwickshire, and Miss Emma Louise Carbutt, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Francis Carbutt, of The White House, Langham, Colchester, Essex.

Mr R.L. Carey Hughes and Miss H.S. Bayne-Powell
The marriage took place at Maidstone, Kent, on Saturday April 25, 1987, of Mr Richard Carey Hughes and Miss Sophia Bayne-Powell.

Mr M. Dixon and Miss D. Kelly
The marriage took place on Saturday, April 25, at St Mary the Virgin, Marlborough, between Mr Mark Dixon and Miss Deborah Kelly.

Mr J.H. James and Miss A.M. Stockton
The marriage took place on April 25, 1987, at St Anne's, Wandsworth, between Mr John Henry James and Mrs Anita Maria Stockton (née Scarth). The Rev Colin Coward officiated.

Mr A.N. Warrance and Miss V.L.P. Wain
The marriage took place on Saturday, April 25, at St Michael's, Rossington, Yorkshire, between Mr Arthur Warrance, elder son of Mr and Mrs Arthur Warrance, and Miss Vanessa Jane Penelope Wain, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Wain. The Rev Gordon Wain-Wyness officiated.

Mr A.D. Norman and Miss A.M. Sroda
The marriage took place on Saturday, April 25, at Cambridge, between Mr Andrew Douglas Norman, only son of Mr and Mrs A.G. Norman, of Cavendish, Suffolk, and Miss Anna-Maria Sroda, only daughter of the late Mr Josef Sroda and of Mrs Janina Sroda, of Cracow, Poland.

Mr M.G. Spelman and Miss C.A. Cormack
The marriage took place on Saturday, April 25, at St Leonard's Church, Hythe, Kent, between Mr Mark Spelman and Miss Caroline Cormack. The Rev S. Woolley officiated.

Mr N.V. C. de Boitville and Miss A. Rayner
The marriage took place on Saturday, April 25, 1987, at St Mary's, Studley Royal, Ripon, Yorkshire, between Mr Nicholas Vivian Chastel de Boitville, of 162 Cambridge Street, London SW1, and Miss Anna Louise Rayner, of Duck House, Ripon, Yorkshire.

Mr N.P. Jones and Miss K.E. Lee
The marriage took place on Saturday at All Saints, Braunston, Northamptonshire, of Mr Neil Pilkington Jones, elder son of Mr and Mrs Dennis Jones, of Burghage, Leicestershire, and Miss Karen Elizabeth Lee, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs F.G. Spencer Lee, of Braunston, Northamptonshire. The Very Rev Peter Berry officiated.

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BIRTHS

DEATHS

BIRTHS

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CARPENTER

BULLY
CARPENTER

ELLER
CARPENTER

GRANAM
CARPENTER

GREENWOLD
CARPENTER

HALL
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THE ARTS

Cue for scooping the pool

Any Martian who happened to absorb the full eight hours or so of *World Snooker* (BBC2) this weekend will have formed the impression that Planet Earth consists of a verdant oblong basking in a sea of blue carpeting. Somewhere in amongst this narcotic tranquillity, *A Car for Africa* (Channel 4, Saturday) snarled off on a four-part migration to Nairobi. The African's inventor has taken two decades to realize his ambition of building a robust, all-terrain motor car from plywood and resin, but even he could hardly

TELEVISION

have anticipated being favoured with the fastest commercial in motoring history.

Such a vehicle would surely have been a boon to Shumblie, Whelpel and Pigg as they floundered towards the city of Laku (Ishamelian for "I don't know"). "Brought to the screen by writer William Boyd", *Scope* (LWT, yesterday) paraded the costumes and low technology of the 1930s; it also displayed some handsome, budget-justifying location work in Morocco.

What it did not bring to the screen was the irresistible snap and crackle of Evelyn Waugh's peerless, hard-edged fairy-tale. One sympathizes with the mental picture of Mr Boyd looking over his shoulder for the strictures of the Waugh Preservation Society, but scrupulousness is not necessarily the better part of adaptation. When Boyd (nicely underplayed by Michael Maloney) first hears the drone of the aeroplane which will parachute Mr Baldwin into the revolution, he has just realized that he needs a *deus ex machina* — a crucial joke which epitomizes the story's Furbankian playfulness. The line appears in the narrative and not between quotes, but it would have been truer to the book to put it into Mr Maloney's mouth. Apart from Donald Pleasence's glazed imbecile of a Lord Copper and Denholm Elliott's fretful Salter, the comedy was obscured by aspic.

Martin Cropper

A substance of entertainment

After a seven-year silence Margaret Drabble is about to publish her tenth novel. For five of those years she was literary editor of the Oxford Companion to English Literature. The move was deliberate — it seemed one way of getting over the block she felt while working on *The Middle Ground*, which appeared in 1980. *The Radiant Way*, to be published on Thursday, spans a six-year period, from New Year's Eve in 1979 to the end of the miners' strike, as seen through the eyes of three Cambridge friends, now a psychotherapist, a teacher and an art historian, all living in London. Deeply concerned about a divided England, Drabble has set her novel partly in the North. "Things are going badly wrong up there, and it seemed to me that this needed writing about", she says.

At the same time, *The Radiant Way* is vintage Drabble, exploring the territory she knows best, the middle-class working woman. Her three protagonists are articulate and totally believable. She has a sharp eye for the ridiculous and the phoney, but there is no acid in her pen. The strongest theme in the book is the importance of the friendship between the three women. Relationships with men seem almost ephemeral by comparison — the enduring bond is the sisterhood. Temporarily sharing her Hampstead house with her two youngest children, Joseph, aged 20, about to become a gardener in Australia, and Rebecca, 23, who is applying for a job in the North, she seems content. Dressed in khaki-coloured safari trousers and a grey-green jersey belonging to one of her daughter's boyfriends, and totally devoid of make-up, she blends comfortably into her surroundings. The house is cheerful and pleasantly untidy.

For many years a single parent — she was reluctant to remarry while the children were young — four years ago she married the biographer Michael Holroyd. Theirs is not a conventional marriage — they live in separate houses and to a degree lead separate lives. They see each other several evenings a week and spend holidays together. The "tripartite" view of marriage, with husband, children and a career, she sees as almost an impossibility.

"What you get is a tremendous nest of rivalries and hostilities concealed by the happy married look you see in the advertisements", she says. "Marriage as we have developed it has worked very badly for a lot of people — it's made them very unkind and unpleasant to one another. Their expectations are false and, when they can't fulfil them, they become deeply disappointed. As an ideal, it only works for exceptional people, and an institution that works only for a

Five years editing *The Oxford Companion to English Literature* kept Margaret Drabble away from original work for too long, but this week at last a new novel, *The Radiant Way*, appears: interview by Judy Clifford



Margaret Drabble: "I would like to think that I can write on two levels"

minority doesn't seem a very good one."

Liz, the psychotherapist in *The Radiant Way*, may echo Drabble's thoughts: "She was determined never again to be party to the hideous transformation which overcomes the partners in a bad marriage, who grow fangs and horns and sprout black monstrous wolfish hair, who claw and cling and bite and suck. There would be no more of that: she would see the person as he was, and see him steadily, setting aside her own long shadow as it fell."

Drabble's novels have been critical successes as well as best-sellers. "I would like to think that I can write on two levels — that's what I admire in

other people", she remarks of this double blessing. "Iris Murdoch's novels, for instance, are entertaining and have substance at the same time. A lot of people find it very irritating that I should have decided not to be a highbrow writer; they feel I don't deserve to succeed in a compromised position. But I just don't see that. My job as a novelist is to explain things to me, and in terms of human communication I certainly don't want to communicate only with intellectuals — I see that as impoverishment."

"It always seems to me paradoxical that the extreme left of the literary intelligentsia, who talk about the working classes, write the most incomprehensible stuff, which is totally

inaccessible. It is quite true my books occupy a sort of bourgeois middle ground, but then so do I, and I'm not ashamed of it. I'm not ashamed of watering the pot-plants." For Drabble, such minor daily events represent civilization. "I think that if something terrible happened, and we had to pick up our bags and walk and die in some terrible labour camp, the things we would undoubtedly like to remember would be watering the pot-plants, drawing the curtains and putting the milk bottles out in the evenings."

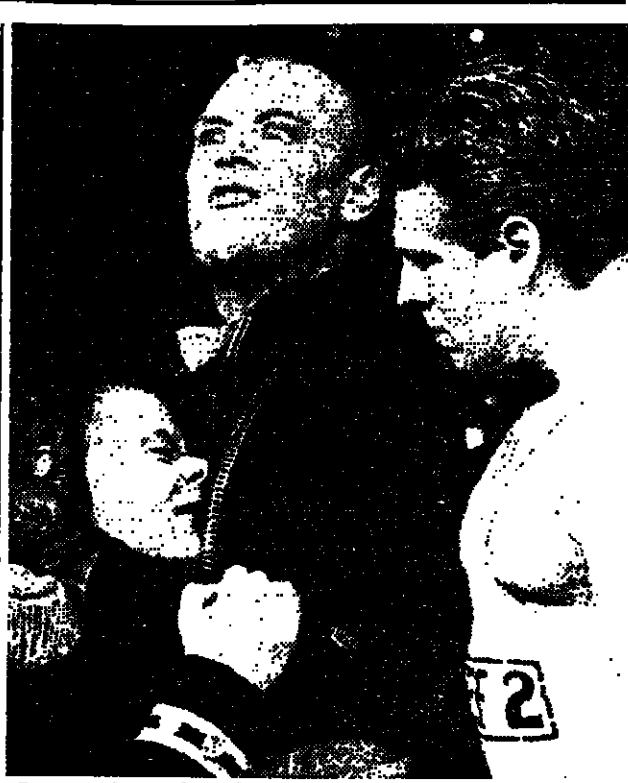
She has always espoused causes. Today her cause is Charter for Jobs, a pressure group for the unemployed. As she explains, the organization has two arms: the Unemployment Institute, which issues scholarly papers on economic reform, and Charter for Jobs itself, which is the populist arm of the movement. Next Sunday is to be Hands Across Britain Day, with a living chain from Liverpool to London demonstrating against unemployment.

Endlessly she worries about what has gone wrong since the Sixties, and this is another theme of her novel. Early in her career, Drabble spent a short period working as an actress, and she remembers those days with great fondness because of the sexual and personal freedom allowed in the theatre. "On the whole, people saw the best in each other and were tremendously loyal to those in trouble. All sorts of oddities in relationships were tolerated. I liked that." By contrast, a "beautiful illustration" of life in the Eighties is the moral package being sold to people as a result of Aids.

Her own morality has been very much influenced by her parents, who were both socialists, and by her days at a Quaker boarding-school. "The Quakers believe in the light of God in every man. At school we would discuss the light of God in Hitler and Chengis Khan, but decided that it hadn't had a chance to develop. I always return to the premise that everyone is good, and continually think that to understand all is to forgive all. The only time we blame other people is when we don't understand why they are behaving in such an impossible way."

A few weeks ago she began work on the successor to *The Radiant Way*, spurred on by the yearning to write "the great novel". I ask her if she is afraid of growing old. "I should like to grow old like Doris Lessing", she replies. "Although she's in her sixties, she is always changing her mind and moving on. Like her, I want to continue to be tolerant and curious."

● *The Radiant Way* is published on Thursday by Weidenfeld & Nicolson at £10.95.



On secondment from Spectre? Richard Ridings (centre) as Mad Mick, Richard James Lewis (left) and Andrew Searle

THEATRE

Putting on the Ritz Haymarket, Leicester

In London John Godber's *Bouncers* nears the end of its long run at the Arts Theatre, playing to audiences that are clearly at home in the glitzy world of the disco, the oily DJs, the bouncers at the door, the punters, the grot, and themselves look no older than 19. An audience 99 per cent composed of 19-year-olds is a rare and cheering sight, and it is to Godber's credit that he found a way to captivate them.

On Friday BBC television screened the first in a series of six 50-minute plays by Godber showing the heartache, thrills, hazards and so forth entailed in running a disco called the Ritz. Andrew Hisslop reviewed it the next day. A version of these episodes, compressed into two hours, has been prepared for the stage by Godber himself, Jane Thornton and Robin Midgley, who also directs.

In place of the imaginative wit of *Bouncers* and its perception of a real world, we have here a pantomime *Crossroads*.

The nerdy Eric wants to run a disco, hires an incompetent staff, falls foul of Mad Mick and his beefy bodyguard, offers his customers horrible food, terrible jokes, a disastrous night out and we are invited to care.

The staff have the problems always besetting characters in television series. The first bouncer's wife has left him and forgotten that their little boy is suffering in hospital. Bouncer No 2 is fat and thick and has no girl, whereas Bouncer No 3 has two too many. The cocktail girl is afraid of being left on the shelf but has only to down a tumbler of gin and is ready to strip before the mob. Having fainted away she is given the kiss of life by boring Eric whose wife, of all people, walks in absolutely at that very moment.

Given the nervy cutting of a pop video, the silliness of these stories could be camouflaged. Lyndsay Dolan's amusing musical staging works along those lines. Burlesque is another disguise, and hence the menacing chords announcing every approach of Mad Mick (Richard Ridings), his cropped head and fur coat giving him the look of an assassin on secondment from Spectre. But these tricks no more conceal the show's emptiness than green paint will make a desert fertile.

Jeremy Kingston

Music well worth laughing at

OPERA

Die lustigen Nibelungen Kammeroper, Vienna

Oscar Straus remains famous for two operettas — *A Waltz Dream* (frequently revived in Austria) and *The Chocolate Soldier* (based on Shaw's *Arms and the Man*) — plus that waltz once heard and never forgotten that he composed at the very end of his career for Max Ophüls's film version of *La Ronde*. But he started off in cabaret, *Überbrettel* to use the Viennese term, and when he was just over 30 he composed *Die lustigen Nibelungen*, or *The Merry Nibelungs*, a piece of merryment way after Nicolai's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* but only just before Lehár's *The Merry Widow*.

It is in a genre which has now disappeared: part-parody, part-opera and part-cabaret itself. Straus will quote from Wagner whenever he thinks it will raise a laugh, but on the whole he would much rather that his characters — who are much more Gibbings than Nibelungs — break into a waltz of his own composition than steal music from others. There are elements of Gilbert and Sullivan and it is known that Straus in his Berlin days was much influenced by *The Mikado*. But the inspiration behind



Brännhilde strikes: Joseph-René Rampold, Hanna Köhler

The Merry Nibelungs is irreverence: an elegant raspberry blown in the direction of those who take their Wagner just that bit too seriously. And so Straus's spiritual father in this instance is not Sullivan but Offenbach. It is the kind of work that would have gone down well at the Bouffes-Parisiens had it not been written in German and put on at the Carltheater close to the Prater.

their main contribution to the Vienna Festival, which opens next month, and a frothy evening it makes. Günther, the somewhat effete scion of a family which stores its gold in the bank rather than at the bottom of the Rhine, does his best to keep away from the clutches of the Amazonian Brännhilde and elicits the help of Siegfried, an equally massive Wagnerian tenor, to hold her at bay.

The plot matters little, the songs much more. Joseph-René Rampold, a rubber-limbed comedian who can sing and dance, makes much of Günther. He is destined for the type of roles Michael Crawford used to play when Vienna gets around to finding them. Hanna Köhler is the Brännhilde and Elizabeth Smith the fluffy soubrette, with a sizeable soprano of the sort the Kammeroper is adept at discovering through the annual Belvedere Singing Competition.

Kurt Huemer takes plenty of liberties with both book and score, including a brief quote from the *La Ronde* waltz and a rather less reverential one from Strauss, R.

All in all, a two-hour span of high good humour which, under Fritz Muliar's fast-paced direction, whizzes by and looks back to the days when people laughed at music as well as at words. *Die lustigen Nibelungen* is at the Kammeroper until May 16; in July and August it can be seen at Schönbrunn.

John Higgins

OPERA

Otello Covent Garden

Since its unveiling in January, Elijah Moshinsky's great Verdi canvas has been busy with the comings and goings of an unusually vivid and varied cast. John Higgins reported here on April 16 on the new Otello of Vladimir Atlantov, the new Iago of Sherrill Milnes and Rosalind Plowright's two-night stand as Desdemona. Now, with Julia Varady taking over as Desdemona for the last four performances, the final brush-stroke has been boldly applied: this *Otello* lives as it has never lived before.

In what is, strange to say, her Royal Opera debut, Miss Varady seizes on the emotions at the heart of this role: the pride and anger of the woman which must complement the vulnerability of the girl if this

is to be truly Verdi's and not Shakespeare's Desdemona. It is there in her physical presence, from the early staid silhouette against Moshinsky's wide sky, to a sense, even before her public humiliation, of the suffering she already carries within her. And it is there, above all, in the voice. At last, Covent Garden has a Desdemona with a chest register as strong as her profile. She uses it to grade and shade every flicker of Verdi's melodic line; she uses it to lead the Act III finale and it seldom hears it led; and it provides her Ave Maria with a significantly contrasted ardent invocation and deliciously floated prayer.

The depths and heights of joy and anguish are there within Varady's performance, and her last cry to Emilia after the Willow Song rings out as a desperate affirmation of life in thrilling balance with Milnes's outstanding vocal incarnation of its negation.

Hilary Finch

ROCK

Johnny Clegg Town & Country

The surge of popular enthusiasm for South African music in the wake of Paul Simon's *Graceland* ensured a high turn-out of inquisitive customers for Johnny Clegg's London show, but could hardly have guaranteed the emphatic ovation that the band received at the end of this uplifting performance.

The plaudits were partly in recognition of an artist who knows his subject. The 33-year-old Clegg, who was born in Rochdale, emigrated to South Africa at the age of six, and spent most of his teens and his whole adult life immersing himself in Zulu culture, playing with native black musicians at a time when such activities were regarded as at best an aberration and in certain situations, a punishable offence.

To have forged a career in the face of such adversities has given Clegg the kind of emotional authority that very few rock musicians possess, and the tone of his delivery frequently prompted visions of

Bruce Springsteen. Switching between English and Ndebele, Clegg would preface his songs with homespun anecdotes often derived from Zulu folklore, while the lyrics of numbers like "Great Heart", "Dance across the Centuries" and "Scatterlings of Africa" emphasized an intense pan-African spiritual quest.

While Paul Simon has tended to take township jive and respectfully plaster his unmistakably American singing on top, the more experienced Clegg has arrived at a noisy but seamless fusion of rock and root. Savuka, his supremely accomplished five-piece band, played their conventional rock equipment as if it had been invented for the purposes of interpreting a Zulu football song or the melancholy chants of "Asimbonanga". Clegg, stripped to the waist, danced with his percussionist Dudu Zulu, making the dramatic flourishes of the traditional ritual steps as if to the manner born.

Over and above all this unique and extravagant entertainment was the simple but irresistible impression of a man who, more by accident than design, has managed to hit all the right buttons at the right moment; a man whose time has come.

David Sinclair

CONCERT

ASMF Chamber Ensemble Wigmore Hall

For five years, locked in a German prison-camp, Tommy Reilly set about discovering the harmonica as no one had discovered it before. For 40 years since, his determination to establish the "highbrow" credentials of his squat, solid-silver instrument has been matched by his skill at coaxing lyrical, musicianly sounds from this most intractable and improbable of sources.

Not even Reilly's cultured playing can entirely dispel the instrument's unfortunate potential for evoking bad folk-singers and worse Westerners. But by commissioning judiciously over the years he has at least given the harmonica a repertoire of pedigree.

Here, accompanied by the nine strings of the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields Chamber Ensemble, he premiered Paul Patterson's *Propositions*. Three of its four short movements are cast in

Patterson's peppy, quickfire-repartee style, with *motu perpetuo* Stravinskian accompaniments supporting the soloist and engaging him in tightly-worked dialogues (the "propositions", one supposes). Even here the cut of the solo figuration clearly follows the grain of the instrument's natural articulation.

But it is in the slow movements that the harmonica's unique ability to project melancholy as a kind of smothered menace — a whine of *Angst* — is best exploited. Here Patterson seems to mirror the soloist's timbre in the mildly dissonant string textures: throbbing tremolando initially, then violas doubling the harmonica at the lower octave, forming a liaison of plaintive sweetness.

The performers seemed a little tense about maintaining ensemble through Patterson's energetic syncopation and saucy, throwaway endings. After the interval, however, they relaxed into a genial account of Gordon Jacob's *Suite for Harmonica and Strings* — three genre pieces crafted with this composer's usual easygoing flair.

Richard Morrison

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The crucial four hours in attempt to move Herald

From David Sapsed, Zeebrugge

Four crucial hours this morning will determine whether it will be possible to refloat the ferry Herald of Free Enterprise and tow her back to port today, almost at the same time as the British enquiry into the disaster starts in London.

Friday's attempt to refloat the ship failed when a cable supporting the bow of the vessel snapped. The ship listed to port and water flooded back in through the upper vehicle deck.

At 5.30am BST today — two hours before low tide — work was due to restart on pumping out more than 15,000 tons of water from the lower decks. Unless this is successfully completed and the vessel is refloated by 9.30am, the rising tide will again flood the ship.

The Dutch salvage firm, Smit Tak, spent the weekend positioning a third floating crane to help support the bow of the vessel. They also made a hole in the port side to enable pumps to be repositioned — they admitted after Friday's efforts had to be abandoned that they had made the mistake of putting all the pumps on the starboard side.

They are now confident, however, that the latest plan will enable the ferry to be towed into a temporary berth just inside the western mole of

the harbour at about 11am BST today.

A team of Royal Navy divers is due to move in almost immediately to begin the search for more bodies among the jumble of 34 lorries and about 70 cars, which are mainly piled against the port side.

The death toll from the March 6 disaster rose to 178 over the weekend when two bodies, apparently dislodged during Friday's abortive refloating, were washed ashore on beaches near Zeebrugge.

Kent Police operating from the port were last night attempting to identify the latest victims, a man and a woman. Another 15 bodies are believed to be still on board.

Belgian authorities are maintaining a constant monitoring exercise to ensure there is no leakage of dangerous chemicals, including cyanide solution, believed to be on lorries when the vessel capsized.

Townsend Thoresen has already issued writs in Belgium against companies which allegedly transported toxic chemicals aboard the Herald in contravention of the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code.

The presence of the chemicals is not considered a risk to divers who will search for bodies.

A world away from the hunger of Africa



Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, relaxes at home after her exhausting visit to the Horn of Africa where she faced harrowing scenes of African poverty.

After a walk in spring sunshine with her godchildren, Catherine Martin, aged three, and her sister Jessica, who is four months old, she returned to the kitchen of her London flat to the

domestic routine of making oatmeal biscuits for them. It was a world away from Ethiopia, where Mrs Chalker found hunger and deprivation even in a year of relative plenty. Although

in a land noted for drought she was ironically caught in a ferocious rainstorm. She also visited Somalia, Kenya, and Mauritius. (Photograph: Graham Wood)

Sit-in at tractor plant ends

Workers occupying the Caterpillar factory threatened with closure at Uddingston, near Glasgow, yesterday voted overwhelmingly to suspend industrial action and resume normal working from today.

About 400 hourly-paid workers accepted an agreement made last week at the Scottish TUC conference in Perth between the Caterpillar management and the two main unions, the engineering union AEU and the electricians' EETPU.

It allows for an "orderly phased cessation" of production at the plant by December this year, with a small number of employees retained to prepare for the closure in March 1988.

Caterpillar have agreed to withdraw their threat to close the plant on May 11; have guaranteed no compulsory redundancies before October 16; and will provide redundancy payments in excess of the statutory minimum, as well as other severance benefits.

The company also agreed not to remove any equipment from the plant before October 16, unless agreed by the workforce.

In an emotional address to workers yesterday, Mr John Brannan, the shop stewards' convenor, said that they were not so much ending the sit-in, as allowing the management back into the plant.

He said that they must now move to what he called phase two of their campaign, which would involve looking for a new employer who would retain as many of the original workforce as possible.

Mr Campbell Christie, the STUC general secretary, said he would be contacting the Scottish Office, the Scottish Development Agency and the Confederation of British Industry to form a working party which will look at all possibilities. Caterpillar has agreed to participate in the group.

Yesterday's vote brings to an end the 14-week occupation when Caterpillar said it was closing the plant, with the loss of 1,200 jobs. Mr Brannan said yesterday that the proposal by MPAT Holdings, headed by Sir Monty Finniston, the former chairman of British Steel, to buy or lease the factory and employ about 400 people to produce an all purpose civilian and military transport vehicle was just one possibility.

Mr Malcolm Riffkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, said yesterday he was very pleased by the decision.

The Scottish Office said that it would welcome an approach from the STUC on the future use of the plant.

A youth aged 16 died at the weekend after being stabbed during a rock concert to raise money for the Caterpillar workers.

Joe Bradley, of Bardowie Street, Possilpark, Glasgow, had been watching the group Scheme in Glasgow's Pavilion Theatre on Saturday.

Two other young men were in hospital last night recovering from injuries sustained in the disturbance. Police said they were appealing for witnesses to the incident.

Forces show off their speed and skill

By Brian James

Operation Freerac, a rescue exercise with resonances of real and recent tragedy, was completed yesterday, with the "rescue" of 240 souls from a car ferry supposedly on fire off the Scottish coast.

Seven helicopters from the RAF and Royal Navy hovered a few feet above the bridge of the MV Iona, to which away those passengers the Islay lifeboat could not take from the ship, at a standstill off the Mull of Kintyre.

The operation, controlled by the coastguard, involved 40 police, 11 ambulances and the fire brigade.

It took just under four hours from the first "Mayday" call in weather which Coastguard Regional Command Ian Huntingdon described as "far too perfect".

He added: "We would have liked rough weather to put the pressure on".

Commander Huntingdon said that Operation Freerac had been planned since last summer and was in no way a reaction to the ferry disaster off Zeebrugge.

Another senior officer involved in the exercise said, however: "True...but it took Zeebrugge to stop some of the parties gripping about the coast and give the go-ahead".

Commander Huntingdon said: "First impressions are that we surpassed our expecta-



A helicopter at work during Operation Freerac yesterday (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

tions. We feel that in a real incident, like Zeebrugge if you like, our response would have been just as adequate".

The 240 passengers of MV Iona were all volunteers from the auxiliary and reserved forces.

Men with labels around their necks declaring them to have suffered "heart attack" or "broken leg" — or "punctured lung" — allowed the medical teams to practise what the manuals say to do.

Among them were three tough young reserve Marines in seats labelled "nursing mothers only".

Commander Huntingdon said: "There was no way of course to simulate the, we'll not call it panic, but high emotional concern which would have been present with a real fire on board."

The skipper an observer boat added: "If this had been the real thing you couldn't move out here for boats. Every fishing vessel keeps its radio tuned to the emergency. The first word of Mayday and they would have come pouring out of every inlet, launching from every island cove".

The coastguard who was to take Captain Sandy Ferguson's 1.30 am Mayday was waiting in his office to be

ready an hour before. Extra police were standing by in their crisis positions, and the designated ambulances had been made ready.

Even the odd spanner in the works had been pre-arranged. One rescue helicopter had to pretend engine failure on Kinnaird quay, effectively blocking the only landing pad.

The emergency diversion site, a field, had been selected. Thus it is certain only that on a lovely sunny morning with the sea like rippled silk, the Strathclyde rescue services with the aid of Her Majesty's forces would do a quick and professional job.

Tebbit and Thatcher rally party

Continued from page 1

night that the Alliance was in a strong position to achieve a breakthrough at the coming election.

He told a Liberal International dinner in Oxford that the Alliance would be entering the election at a higher level of public support than at any other election since the Second World War.

Labour yesterday disclosed key changes to its election planning designed to give more emphasis than ever before to regional campaigning.

All the parties are at an advanced stage of election planning. Only 17 Alliance candidates across Britain, fewer than 10 Labour candidates and 15 Conservative candidates remain to be chosen.

Mr Steel said last night that the Alliance would play a crucial role in the life of the country after the election.

"As the election approaches I believe it will be the historic task of our Alliance to offer the alternative to a further term of uncaring destruction by the Conservatives."

"This time, as we enter the general election at a higher level of public support than at any other election since the war, our goal will be the breakthrough."

Drugs trap ruined by police interference

Continued from page 1

Yard detectives, swung into action and the men from the "H" team could only stand helpless at Heathrow as the French authorities arrested Brett and O'Rourke. Five kilos of cocaine with a street value of £750,000 were found hidden in an overcoat belonging to one of the men.

Scotland Yard then launched its own series of raids on London addresses but found only a handful of drugs and made no arrests.

A senior detective said the fundamental problem between the two services is that the police can carry out lengthy investigations only for Customs to "get the glory".

This lack of co-operation has led, on more than one occasion, to Customs men arresting a courier planted by police or even police undercover officers.

A solution to the crisis was proposed earlier this month at a national drugs conference by Mr James Anderson, the chief constable of Greater Manchester. He called on the Government to finance an elite police drugs force, with the police taking the primary role in drug prevention and all other agencies taking a secondary role.

The suggestion increased the bitterness between police and Customs, for the latter believe they already provide an "elite drugs force".

Judge's security lapse

Continued from page 1

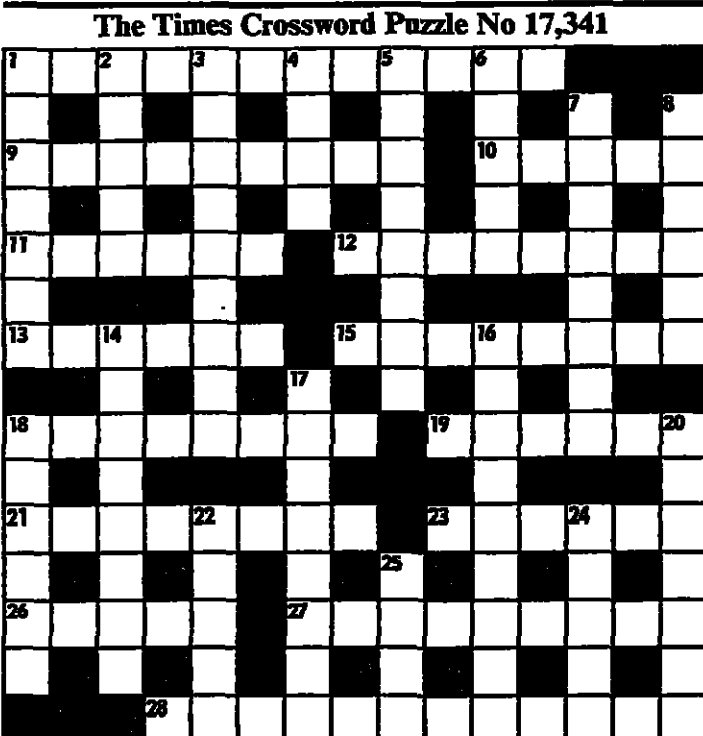
bers of the judiciary, was a target for the terrorists who had sought revenge for controversial remarks he made in 1984 when acquitting three RUC officers of the murder of a Provisional IRA terrorist killed in a controversial shooting later investigated by the Stalker/Sampson inquiry.

Hardly had politicians and clergymen finished condemning the outrage when the Provisional IRA struck again in Co Tyrone. Two gunmen shot dead Mr William Graham, aged 44, a full-time

private in the Ulster Defence Regiment, as he worked on his farm near Pomeroy on Saturday night.

The dead man, who was married with a three-year-old boy and ten-month-old daughter, had been in the regiment 17 years and survived a terrorist assassination attempt five years ago.

Mr Enoch Powell yesterday blamed Mrs Margaret Thatcher's "treacherous capitulation" over the Anglo-Irish agreement for the "catalogue of daily horror" in Northern Ireland.



This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 55 per cent of the competitors at the 1987 Leeds regional final of The Times Crossword Championship.

- ACROSS**
- Smashing tennis on part of the Surrey side (12).
 - Come to blows at work — may well be given a pasting! (5-4).
 - The official setting right Eastern first lady (5).
 - See about a Spanish agreement without any trouble (6).
 - Values jennets? (8).
 - Course taken by high-minded people (6).
 - Dispersed girl shut up (8).
 - Account for connection (8).
 - Gave an address to read out (6).
 - Keep petty-cash book (8).
 - Season well (6).
 - Hair used in mattress-making (5).
 - Mnemonic about a residuum (5).
 - Usual allowance for an American soldier (7.5).
- DOWN**
- Bit of mosaic of D'Urberville people (7).
 - Polonius fell behind here (5).
 - Craving drink — easily led (9).
 - None held in honour, blow it! (4).
 - Points in the right direction — it makes a difference (5.3).
 - A patient helper (5).
 - Declare, not for the first time, soldiers need a lock-up (8).
 - Afternoon service? (3-3).
 - Alleviates the situation in cut-back (8).
 - Strong binding (9).
 - Meet with a number at the border (8).
 - Note before and after position for standing (6).
 - Possibly got in the doctor — up to only a gentle pace (7).
 - Leaderless men plead to follow (5).
 - What one and one make in the East (5).
 - Pip will accompany her until midnight (4).

Concise crossword, page 12

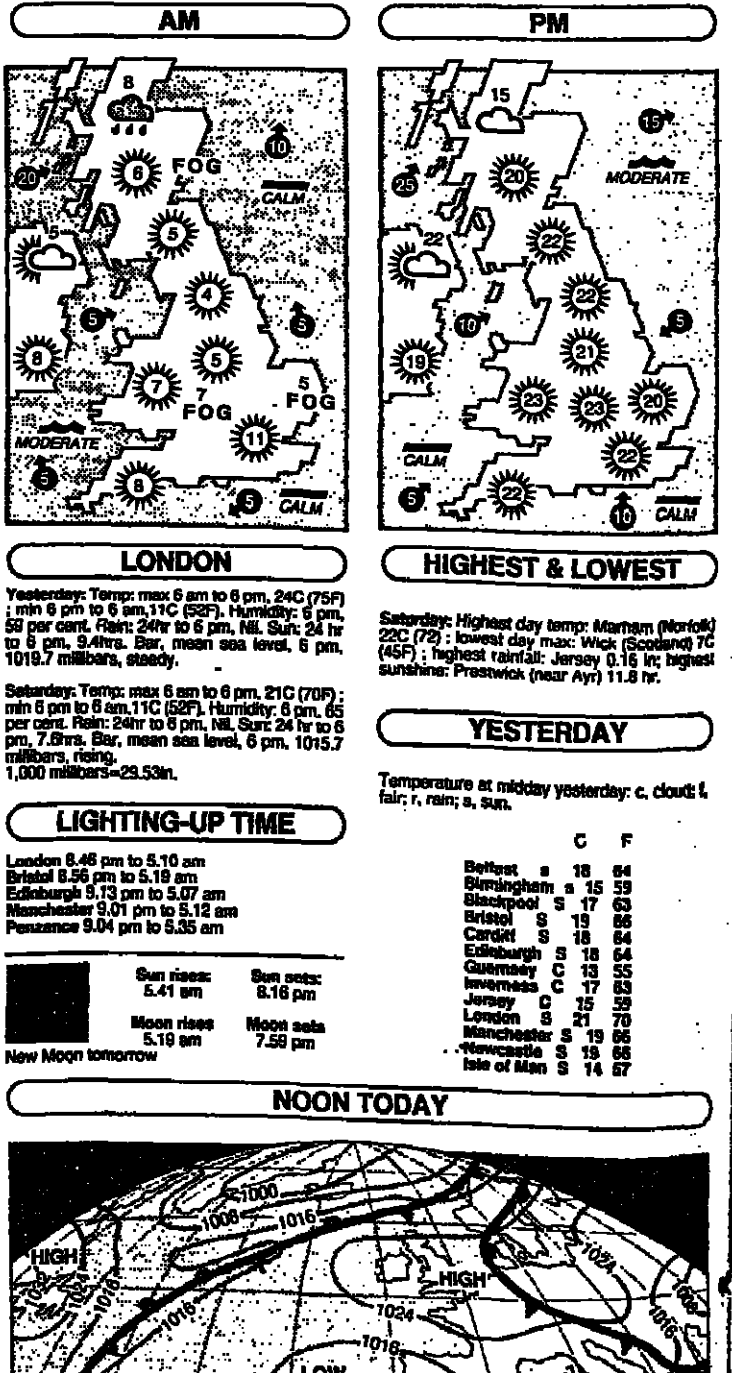
WEATHER

General situation: High pressure will maintain the fine weather. Virtually all areas can expect another day of almost unbroken sunshine although there will be some patchy fog early on. Overall it will again be very warm, but there may be a touch of ground frost in one or two well sheltered areas to start with, and later many coasts will be affected by cool sea breezes. North-west Scotland may have a little rain in places later on. Outlook for tomorrow and Wednesday: The pleasant spring-like weather will continue for a while, but during Wednesday it will cloud over in the west, with the chance of some showery rain later.

ABROAD			
MONDAY	C	F	W
Algeria	19	68	19
Alexandria	18	65	18
Amman	18	65	18
Baghdad	18	65	18
Bahia	18	65	18
Bombay	18	65	18
Buenos Aires	18	65	18
Calcutta	18	65	18
Cairo	18	65	18
Cardiff	18	65	18
Chennai	18	65	18
Copenhagen	18	65	18
Dublin	18	65	18
Edinburgh	18	65	18
Geneva	18	65	18
Helsinki	18	65	18
Jerusalem	18	65	18
London	18	65	18
Lyons	18	65	18
Madrid	18	65	18
Moscow	18	65	18
Paris	18	65	18
Rome	18	65	18
Stockholm	18	65	18
Toronto	18	65	18
Warsaw	18	65	18
Zurich	18	65	18

THE POUND

Currency	Bank	Rate
Australia	Bank	2.31
Canada	Bank	2.31
Denmark	Bank	2.31
France	Bank	2.31
Germany	Bank	2.31
Italy	Bank	2.31
Japan	Bank	2.31
Netherlands	Bank	2.31
Sweden	Bank	2.31
Switzerland	Bank	2.31
USA	Bank	2.31
Yugoslavia	Bank	2.31



Executive Editor
Kenneth FleetSTOCK MARKET
(Change on week)FT 30 Share
1580.9 (+40.6)
FT-SE 100
2001.5 (+52.1)Bargains
52144 (31735)USM (Datastream)
163.04 (-0.08)THE POUND
(Change on week)US dollar
1.6545 (+0.0245)
W German mark
2.9591 (+0.0080)
Trade-weighted
72.7 (+0.3)

US NOTEBOOK

Nightmare
becomes
a realityFrom Maxwell Newton
New York

We are now seeing the evolution of the "nightmare scenario" I have previously described. This is the development of sharply weaker domestic economic conditions in the US, combined with a falling currency in the foreign exchange markets.

But now we have another nasty twist. Prices of precious metals are rising sharply, partly in response to the fall in the dollar but also in anticipation of accelerating inflation.

If, as Mr Paul Volcker has often stated, the Federal Reserve fears a further decline in the value of the dollar, it must act to protect the currency by tightening credit conditions in the US and allowing a rise of interest rates.

Interest rates, however, have already increased disturbingly in response to the Fed's restrictions on money growth this year.

Now the US economy is in a downward slide. The evidence was in the March quarter GNP figures, where major spending aggregates such as business fixed investment and housing investment registered sharp declines along with the second successive quarterly fall in real personal consumption spending.

The decision about raising interest rates to protect the currency has been partly taken out of the hands of the Fed by the markets.

On March 23, the 10-year Treasury note yielded 7.22 and the 30-year Treasury bond yielded 7.55. On April 23, the 10-year note yielded 8.30 and the 30-year bond yielded 8.50. While this is no doubt a reaction to much slower money growth, it is also a result of "attempted capital flight". Foreigners, such as the Japanese, cannot shed their dollar holdings but are moving them into much shorter-term assets.

RESULTS

TODAY - Interims: Allied London Properties, Amer Group, Lowland Investment Company, S Lyles, Prestwick Holdings, Finals: Abelsco Group, Chepstow Racecourse, Dencona, Farnell Electronics, Inchcape, Ronald Martin Group, J Menzies, Tarmac, Vanbrugh Currency Fund, Viking Resources Trust.

TOMORROW - Interims: Ensign Trust, Majestic Investments, National Home Loans Corporation, Scottish Cities Investment Trust, Wellcome (amended), Finals: Barr & Wallace Arnold Trust, Ex-Land, Moss Bros, Office and Electronic Machines, Roper, Scott & Robertson, Tootal Group, Walker Greenbank, The Ward Group.

WEDNESDAY - Interims: Jessups, Philips, PLM, The Talbot Group, Tate & Lyle, United Spring & Steel Group, Finals: Centenary Trust, Costain Group, Delvin Packaging, Downbriar Holdings (amended), English National Investment Company, Fosco Minsep, Framlington Overseas Income and Growth Fund, FR Group, Cecil Gee, Macdonald Martin Distilleries, Noble and Lund, Shiloh, HC Slingsby, JO Walker & Co.

THURSDAY - Interims: Arbutnot Yen Bond Fund, Five Oaks Investments, Govett Strategic Investment Trust, Rodime, Finals: CI Group, Conrad Holdings, Horace Clarkson, Feedex Agricultural Industries, Jacques Vert, Plumb Holdings, Systems Reliability, Virgin Group (amended).

FRIDAY - Interims: North Atlantic Securities Corporation, Finals: Henry Boot & Sons.

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City Diary 22 City Diary 22
City Diary 22 City Diary 22
Money Prices 22 Share Prices 24

City threat to
Japan fadesTokyo moves to
open exchange

By Colin Narborough

Britain is now unlikely to deny Japanese institutions entry to the City as a means of securing greater access to the Tokyo Stock Exchange for British firms.

The gap between the Japanese and British positions on access to the TSE is no longer regarded as very wide in Whitehall.

While still short of the demands made by Mr Michael Howard, the Minister for Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Tokyo's response so far is seen as consistent with Britain's stand.

The signs are that there will be no need to use tough new powers against the Japanese.

The threat of employing powers under the Financial Services Act to withdraw or revoke licences from Japanese financial institutions in Britain has been held up as the Government's key weapon for cracking open Japan's big and potentially lucrative domestic market.

In response to political pressure for action against Japan, the Government has been forced to retreat, refocusing attention on efforts by the European Economic Community to exert pressure on Japan and emphasizing that any lone sanctions could fall foul of international trade agreements.

Ministers are not entirely ruling out the use of the financial services law - intended to guarantee reciprocal treatment of both countries' firms - if Japan fails to give a positive response to the demands Mr Howard made in Tokyo recently for a clear timetable for British firms' entry to the TSE. A response is awaited by a meeting of Treasury officials next month or in June.

The Government regards as important the decision by the Japanese to bring forward to November a meeting to decide on wider TSE membership, originally scheduled for early next year. New members would be given access from May or June next year, instead of the autumn entrance initially envisaged.

Mr Howard welcomed an announcement last week that 12 British firms are expected to be given licences next month to conduct discretionary investment management in Japan. This was, however, an area where the Government had not foreseen any particular difficulties, he noted.

The eventual outcome of C&W's efforts appears to be causing the Government less concern due to indications from Tokyo that the British group's chances of success are more favourable.

Mrs Thatcher has described the treatment of C&W as a test case of Tokyo's commitments to opening its home market to outsiders.

triggered by the treatment of Cable and Wireless's bid for a large slice of the Japanese telecommunications market, the Government last month threatened vigorous unilateral moves against Japan, heedless of warnings that such steps could damage London as a financial centre.

It has since been forced to retreat, refocusing attention on efforts by the European Economic Community to exert pressure on Japan and emphasizing that any lone sanctions could fall foul of international trade agreements.

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Reagan faces confrontation
over trade imbalance bill

From Bailey Morris, Washington

President Reagan faces the toughest trade confrontation of his administration this week as the US Congress prepares to vote on legislation that would require retaliation against America's biggest trading partners.

In a weekend radio address, Mr Reagan appealed to Congress "not to restrict the President's options" in foreign trade policy by passing protectionist legislation. Such actions "inevitably lead to retaliation by foreign countries and the triggering of fierce trade wars," he said.

But influential Congressmen, fighting growing resentment against the trade practices of Japan and other Asian nations, predicted that the legislation would pass easily, casting a pall over the visit to the US next Wednesday by Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Japanese prime minister.

President Reagan, referring specifically to Mr Nakasone's visit and the forthcoming economic summit in Venice, said it was "terribly important at this time" that the Administration is given a free hand in setting policy.

But Mr Richard Gephardt,

a Democratic Presidential candidate, delivered his party's response in a separate radio address. He said the Bill would give the United States "the teeth we need to get free trade agreements."

The most controversial aspect of the Bill is an amendment, called the "Gephardt Amendment", which would require the Administration to retaliate against nations having large trade surpluses with the United States and a pattern of closed domestic markets. It would require the Administration to launch negotiations over a year and a half period designed to reduce the surpluses by 10 per cent.

Mr Gephardt compared the mandatory reduction of trade surpluses to the verification aspects of arms control agreements between the United States and the Soviet Union. "We cannot accept less when our economic security is at stake," he said. He was referring to the record \$170 billion (£103 million) US trade deficit.

The legislation would ease export controls on US high

technology products; strengthen protection for US patents and trade marks against piracy; require mandatory retaliation against some unfair trade practices; provide new authority for the US government to negotiate a new global trade agreement through the General Agreement for Tariffs and Trade (GATT); propose numerous measures to deal with exchange rate imbalances and Third World debt and include a special section designed to force other nations to open their markets to US telecommunications products.

The annual meeting of trade ministers of the EEC, Canada, the US and Japan, which took place over the weekend, reaffirmed the policy initiatives agreed in Washington before Easter designed to correct US trade imbalance with Japan and Germany, writes David Watts in Tokyo.

Noting the lack of credibility of governments in the face of financial markets, Mr Clayton Yuetter, the US trade representative, said that Japan had made many announcements but little progress in reducing its trade surplus or opening its domestic markets.



Flower power: Males, left, and Rees in a newly opened store

Gardening boom
lifts Homebase

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Spring sales in gardening goods are up 60 per cent on last year at Homebase, the DIY and garden-centre superstore chain which is three-quarters owned by J Sainsbury, Britain's biggest grocer. Homebase claims to be market leader in the garden centre sector.

After taking into account the opening of six Homebase outlets in the past 12 months and sector inflation, the gardening boom represents an increase of about 40 per cent at Homebase, according to Mr Anthony Rees, its marketing director.

He said: "The good weather over Easter has brought a great surge which seems to have benefited most in the trade, judging from reports which have been coming in. There have been big sales in our outlets particularly of lawnmowers and garden fertilizers. Householders also seem to be turning increasingly to chemical gardening, using compounds like the many varieties of weedkillers."

The surge in garden sales comes in a sector which was already looking to growth of between 10 per cent and 15 per cent a year, says Mr Dennis

Males, general manager of Homebase.

Homebase sales overall, including do-it-yourself items, are up 50 per cent this spring at its 34 stores of which the latest opening, at Easter, was its Leicester outlet. In real terms, comparing stores which have been open for more than 12 months, the increase is estimated as at least 20 per cent.

Homebase is one of the leading six DIY multiples, among which Woolworth's B&Q chain is the market leader.

While garden goods are an important element for a number of DIY multiples, Homebase looks to a third of its trade coming from gardening ranges at peak times.

At a conservative estimate, the gardening sector is worth about £800 million a year in sales, says Mr Males.

Homebase is anticipating a DIY increase this year of about 40 per cent, with five extra outlets in 1987.

In addition to Leicester, a Worcester store has already opened. The three others are in Rayleigh Weir at Southend, Derby and Newcastle under

New pressure
to halt slide
in the dollar

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

The voice of Mr Gerald Corrigan, president of the New York Federal Reserve Bank, was added yesterday to those calling for a halt to the slide in the dollar.

"A further decline in the dollar or appreciation of the yen at this juncture I would regard as counter-productive," he told a news conference.

Foreign exchange markets are expected to start the week nervously after the strong pressure on the dollar ahead of the weekend. Despite support from several central banks the currency fell below the Y140 level. In New York the dollar closed before the weekend at Y139.35 and Dm.1.7845.

Pressure for an increase in US interest rates to defend the dollar has increased leading to weakness on Wall Street. But there remains concern over the underlying level of buoyancy in the US economy which could be threatened if last summer's rate cut is reversed.

The increase in consumer price inflation to an annual rate of 6.2 per cent in the first quarter has further undermined confidence. Yields on long-dated bonds are now more than 1 percentage point higher than a month ago with the Treasury Long Bond yielding 8.69 per cent.

The big influence on the dollar this week is likely to be the meeting in Washington between President Reagan and the Japanese Prime Minister Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone. Some element of détente over trade is already discounted by markets.

Also due this week are the latest leading indicators on the economy (Wednesday) and factory orders for March (Thursday).

Phillips and Drew, the stockbroker, says in a review issued today that although there may be scope for interest rate cuts in Germany and Japan such action in isolation is unlikely to be sufficient to prevent a further significant decline in the dollar over the next 12 months.

In Britain support for the pound will be further underpinned by the weekend opinion poll showing a strong Conservative lead. The Bank of England, however, is likely to resist any pressure for a rapid fall in interest rates.

Senior officials of the Group of Seven major industrial countries meet this week in Italy to draw up an agenda for the June summit meeting in Venice.

The hope is that increased coordination will help to reduce the huge imbalances in world trade but volatile currency markets will make re-affirmation of the Paris accord on exchange rate stability difficult.

Hillards may beat
off new Tesco bid

By Cliff Feltham

Tesco could still have a fight on its hands even if it raises its takeover bid for the northern supermarket chain Hillards to £200 million later this week.

Mr Peter Hartley, the chairman of Hillards, said yesterday: "I am still confident we can see it off."

Tesco was widely predicted at the weekend to be poised to raise its terms, currently worth 313p a share, to what it believes is a knockout 350p.

Hillards has been fighting hard to retain its independence, supported by a 26 per cent stake held by the board, family and friends. On top of this, clients of Cazenove, its stockbrokers, own another 11 per cent. Before the bid battle got underway, Hillards shares were standing at 223p.

Mr Hartley, speaking from his home in Leeds, remained confident of success despite the possibilities of a much larger offer from Tesco.

He said: "I have spoken to six people at the weekend holding around 13 per cent of our stock and they say it does not matter what offer Tesco comes up with - they will not accept."

"I am quite confident that if Tesco raises its offer to the figure talked about over the weekend, and that is about 350p, then we will see them off. If it goes substantially above that, say £4, although I cannot see it happening, then obviously we might have more difficulties."

"A lot of nonsense has been talked about us losing market share and being unable to compete. But we have been competing with much more formidable competitors than Tesco. For many years we have been fighting alongside not just Tesco but Asda and Sainsbury and have continued to build up a substantial business."

Mr Hartley claimed that he met 10 sets of analysts on Friday and "apart from three who had already made up their minds, the other seven all seem convinced by our arguments for remaining independent."

He added: "I think Tesco misjudged the situation and in particular how much it thought it could get us for - and 350p will represent another misjudgement."

Optimism over ending
rail tariffs deadlock

By Our City Staff

A top-level meeting between Eurotunnel and the British and French railways will be held in London today in the hope of breaking the deadlock over tariffs which is threatening the future of the £4.7 billion project.

The British co-chairman of Eurotunnel, Mr Alastair Morton, will meet the chairman of British Rail, Sir Robert Reid, and representatives of the French state railway, SNCF.

Both sides appeared optimistic yesterday that negotiations over the fee to be paid by the railways for capacity on the two-rail fixed link would be completed before May.

Mr Morton is demanding an improvement in the terms agreed last September and wants 80 per cent of the anticipated tariffs to be paid monthly in advance.

A spokesman for Eurotunnel said: "Talks are going well. We hope to reach a deal with the railways by May 5." He strongly denied a report that Mr Morton was likely to walk out of the meeting if the railways did not agree to widespread changes in the existing heads of agreement.

Many British suppliers were also involved in the conversion, including component work carried out by Harland and Wolff and a £10 million electrical contract with GEC.

It is in the public areas aboard this huge vessel, weighing more than 67,000 tons and 963 feet long, that passengers will notice the main alterations.

Nearly £2 million has been spent on upgrading the Mauretania Restaurant, which will have an international cuisine. A new dance floor has been provided and the Princess Grill and cocktail bar have been refurbished. The Queen's grill has been restored to its original style.

There is a new "adult centre" - offering a variety of games as well as a new "teen centre".

The sports complex includes electronic golf which simulates famous courses of the world. The Grande Lounge - the largest alfresco has been completely remodelled, with two curving staircases on each side of a retractable stage.

Many other public rooms have been modernized as well as most of the cabins, and eight new penthouse suites with verandahs overlooking the sea have been built.

Adsteam plans £17m
switch to Markheath

By Our City Staff

Mr John Spalvin, the Australian entrepreneur, is switching a £17.7 million stake in Coates Brothers, Britain's leading printing ink manufacturer, into property group Markheath Securities, the new vehicle for his expansion in Britain.

Mr Spalvin, who runs the £560 million Adelaide Steamship Company - Adsteam - has already announced plans for taking a near 50 per cent stake in Markheath by putting in £18 million cash for new shares.

As part of the deal, Markheath will then go to its bankers to raise £17.7 million to take aboard Adsteam's holding in Coates. These are held in two blocks, 14.26 per cent of the voting and 25.97 per cent of the non-voting stock.

The voting shares are being acquired at a price of 230p against a closing price on Friday of 253p, and the non-voting shares are changing hands for 200p compared with a market price of 207p.

The deal is seen as a way of Adsteam bringing its British assets under one umbrella.

With 1,000 crew members - about one per passenger - the QE2 is like a luxury floating hotel.

The heyday of the great trans-Atlantic liners was in the '20s and '30s. The 80,744-ton Queen Mary was launched in 1936 and the first Queen Elizabeth - the largest liner ever built - in 1938. Royalty, statesmen and countless film stars made the trip across the Atlantic.

But with the advent of jet aircraft, the days of the great liners were numbered. By 1963 the Queen Elizabeth went into cruise voyages and the QE2 was specifically built for both cruising and trans-Atlantic crossings.

But the popularity of cruising has grown considerably in recent years. Last year Cunard acquired two more luxury liners, bringing its fleet to seven, the largest number in a quarter of a century.

Cunard is now the world's premier passenger line and a big earner of dollars. The QE2, which saw service in the Falklands War, is the flagship of the fleet and as such has been instrumental in demonstrating British capabilities since it went on its first world cruise 12 years ago.

£100 million refit the 'greatest marine conversion'

QE2 returns to luxury circuit

By a Correspondent

One of the world's great liners, the QE2, was returned to Cunard, its owners, at the weekend after a £100 million refit which will extend the life of the 20-year old vessel by another 20 years.

Lloyds Werft of Bremerhaven, West Germany, has replaced the ship's two steam turbines with nine diesel engines, each weighing 220 tons. They have rubber mountings to reduce noise and vibration, and although the difference may not be noticeable in the Solent, it will be in mid-Atlantic, when it is cruising at 28½ knots.

Two new, five-bladed propellers with controllable pitch have been installed, as well as new boilers and fresh water generators, which can produce 1,450 tons daily.

Cunard ran into considerable criticism for giving the tender for conversion to the German firm - who had worked on the ship before. But the Germans guaranteed to complete the work within six months.

In fact, what Alan Kennedy, Cunard's chairman, described as the "greatest marine engineering conversion ever" was carried out in 179 days.

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Issue 2

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GILT-EDGED

Why market was not ready for bad news

Since the Chancellor's Budget statement on March 17, the gilt market, on balance, has made no progress. The long end of the market is now about 2 per cent higher than just before the statement but has fallen about 1½ per cent from the peak reached a few days afterwards.

On the face of it, this appears to bear a rather odd relation. After all, from the viewpoint of the gilt-edged market, Mr Nigel Lawson's Budget was easily the best from any Chancellor of the Exchequer since the late 1960s.

While we have hardly had a return to Gladstonian fiscal rectitude — the Chancellor's success owes a lot more to extracting extra tax revenue, especially from companies, than it does to reductions in public spending — a very credible PSBR forecast of £4 billion was given and new gilts sales of a mere £2 billion in this financial year.

The real problem for gilts is that the market has risen a long way over the past six months and is now discounting a lot of good news. The market broke through the "10 per cent barrier" in February and yields now stand at about 9 per cent at the long end of the market.

The market has thus been unprepared for any bad news, and during the past few weeks there have been some troublesome developments. In particular, there has been a resurgence of worries about the US, and US bond movements have started to affect the gilt market.

It seems that gilts are largely discounting a Conservative victory in the general election and are indeed assuming that the election will be in June. While the

market may be taking too simple a view of the matter, it seems clear that a postponement of the election would be badly received.

In fact, quite a number of things have been going the Government's way lately. The strength of sterling is a welcome bonus and probably owes more to improved overseas perceptions of the British economy than to our relatively high interest rates.

Another problem that seems to be well on the way to being solved is the so-called "bill mountain". The Bank of England's holdings of private sector bills now stand at about £5 billion. This is a fall of £10 billion from its peak in January.

To a certain extent the strength of sterling and the fall in the bill mountain may be connected. As the authorities are intervening across the foreign exchange by selling sterling, to keep the currency down, they need to raise sterling finance.

Of course there are some worries about the domestic situation: particularly the behaviour of broader monetary aggregates such as sterling M3 which has risen 18 per cent over the past year.

The market, for the time being at least, is prepared to assume that this will not spill over into a resumption of inflation. This assumption is consistent with recent experience of the lack of connection of sterling M3 growth with inflation.

Against this background of essentially discounted good news, there are two new factors. The first, which might cause problems, is the experimental gilt auction taking place in mid-May.

The upshot of the discussions between the Bank of

England, the Treasury, and the gilt-edged market-makers, is that this will in principle be a non-underwritten auction.

If the market looks all right prior to the auction, then things will go well; but if the market looks weak, then it may be difficult to shift all the £1 billion or so of stock on offer at a reasonable price.

The second, much more important factor, is the situation in the US government bond market.

Investors in that market have clearly become tired of buying the enormous volume of paper required to finance the US government's deficit in a depreciating currency. It will be difficult for gilts to make much progress while there is still upward pressure on US yields.

Gilts can only be regarded as detached from the US bonds in the sense that, just because US bonds fall, there is no reason for gilts to fall as well, given the much more favourable background in Britain.

It is interesting to note that a US long bond auction will be held at about the same time as the British auction. It may well be that some international funds that usually apply in the US auction will switch to Britain instead.

There is probably scope for the market to rise some way from present levels reflecting the relatively favourable background in Britain, but as gilt yields fall below 9 per cent, the going will grow more difficult. It appears that the best of the rise in nominal gilts is over.

Dr Richard Golding
Head of bond market research, Kleinwort
Grierson Charlesworth

COMPANY NEWS

ARDMORE PETROLEUM. The company will come to the Third Market in Dublin and London through an introduction this week. An IR£2.15 million placing is also being arranged by Credit Lyonnais.

ALLENBONE & SONS. For the year to January 31, a final dividend of 1.25p will be paid making 1.5p (same). With figures in 1986: Turnover 18,443 (17,607), pretax profit 628 (156), tax 340 (71), extraordinary post-tax profit 612 (nil), loss for year 2,400 (profit 85), for 2 (0.13).

MOLVIX HOLDINGS. A final dividend of 1.5p (same) will be paid for the year to December 31. With figures in 1986: Turnover 2,533 (2,030), costs and overheads 2,220 (1,778), operating profit 313 (252), pretax profit 335 (243), tax 121 (11).

FALCON INDUSTRIES. For the year to December 31 no dividend will be paid. With figures in 1986: Turnover 32,542 (38,227), operating profit 1,391 (1,099), group interest payable 707 (877), pretax profit 684 (222), tax 120 (35 credit), minority interest 4 (1), extraordinary profit 2,496 (2,975). Eps 1.009 (1.009).

BRITISH ISLAND AIRWAYS. A dividend of 2p net, 2.74p gross (2.82p gross forecast) for 1986, will be paid on May 29. With figures in 1986: Turnover 32,107 (20,756), operating expenses 30,272 (19,442), operating profit 1,835 (1,314), pretax profit 1,631 (1,167), tax 355 (130). Eps 0.163 (0.127).

ELINTEC TECHNOLOGY. A final dividend of 0.5p making 1p (1.5p) will be paid for 1986. With figures in 1986: Turnover 9,150 (8,551), profit before tax and extraordinary 301 (1,028), tax 120 (175) overseas 51 (100), profit after tax but before extraordinary item 169 (695), minority interest 5 (nil), extraordinary loss after tax 198 (nil). Eps 2.05p (2.05p).

BELGRAVE HOLDINGS. The independent directors of the company, Sir Montague Pritchard and Mr A. Young intend to recommend shareholders to accept the offer by Precis (566) announced on April 14 of 235p per ordinary and 100p per 4.9% cumulative £1 preference. It is intended to change the name of Precis (566) to Empire Investments.

CLAYTON & CO HOLDINGS. A final dividend of 7p making 9p (7p) will be paid for 1986. Group turnover £470,968 (£106,062), pretax profit £1,062,428 (£622,212), tax £290,892 (£122,212).

HUGHES FOOD GROUP. The company has entered into conditional contracts to acquire Schooner Seafoods (Processing) and Schooner Seafoods. The initial consideration will be £349,000 in respect of Schooner Seafoods (Processing) and £1,000 in respect of Schooner Seafoods.

JARVIS PORTER GROUP. The company has reached agreement for the purchase of more than 95% of the issued share capital of R. Macmillan for £752,000. The offer provides for a further cash payment of £48,000 contingent on the outcome of the closure of Macmillan's plant in Belgium.

NOTION. For the half-year to January 31, an interim dividend of 0.55p (same) will be paid on May 29. With figures in 1986: Turnover 11,403 (9,783), profit on continuing activities 443 (497), discontinued activities loss 360 (profit 300), loss before tax 197 (639) profit, tax debits 56 (245), extraordinary debits 319 (53), loss per share 1.13p.

MEMORY COMPUTER. For the six months to December 31 with figures in 1986: Turnover £319 (378), pretax profit 86 (58), tax 10 (20), minority credit 25 (nil), Eps 0.22p (0.04p).

LANCA. A dividend of 0.55p (0.375p) will be paid for 1986 on January 30. With figures in 1986: Turnover 5,849 (3,704), pretax profit 543 (249), tax 210 (90), minority interest 39 (3) profit attributable 294 (156). Eps 3.34p (1.76p).

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

BULLION

TREASURY BILLS

EGGD

BASE LENDING RATES

DISCOUNT MARKET

PRIME BANK BILLS

TRADE BILLS

INTERBANK

LOCAL AUTHORITY DEPOSITS

USM REVIEW

Rockwood set to rise after breaking free of its parent

Rockwood Holdings, the USM security, defence and distribution company, is now virtually free of its parent, W. Canning, after the placing, at the end of last week, of the bulk of Canning's Rockwood stake.

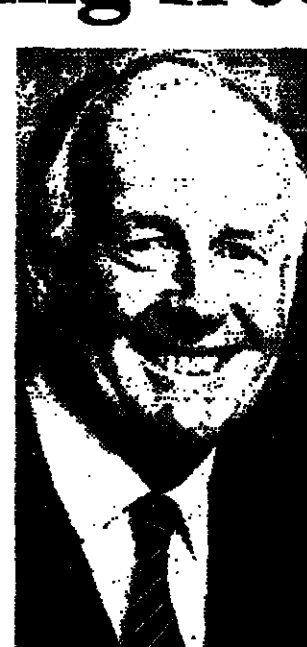
Canning, the Birmingham chemical company which spun Rockwood off on to the USM four years ago — then under the name of HB Electronic — has placed 650,000 Rockwood shares with two pension fund institutions. The placing is believed to have been done at about 102p a share and represents exactly half of Canning's holding. Rockwood has an option to buy back the remaining 650,000 shares at 41p before July 4 this year.

"You can assume that we will be exercising that option — probably within the next four weeks," says Mr Tom Forrest, Rockwood chairman. Canning reduced its holding from 83 per cent to 13 per cent last week and this latest transaction will mark the final stage in its divestment programme.

Rockwood's shares, which slipped back nervously from a new peak of 123p at the start of last week to close at 106p — down 4p on the day — as word of the placing filtered through to the market, should show signs of recovery today.

Elsewhere on the USM, dealings start later today in Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, the Massachusetts-based group which specializes in non-radioactive isotopes and chemical compounds.

CIL was founded in 1981 and supplies its products to industrial laboratories, medi-



Michael Moss: strategy for making quality products

cal, government and academic research centres and health-care organizations in the US and overseas. In five years its pretax profits have grown from \$37,000 to \$789,000 (\$487,000) on turnover up from \$656,000 to \$3.36 million. The group employs just 26 full-time staff and about 80 per cent of sales are made in the US.

The group is now looking to expand its interests outside America and sees Western Europe as a good springboard. As a result, it has applied to join the USM. Quilter, the broker, has arranged a placing of 2.78 million shares at 55p each, valuing the entire company at £7.08 million.

The proceeds from the placing will be used to build a new facility to produce Carbon-13, one of the basic isotopes in the company's product range. Mr Joel Bradley, co-founder, president and chief executive, hopes to reduce costs greatly if the company can produce Carbon-13 itself.

He is already forecasting pretax profits of \$1.3 million for the current year to November 30, which on a notional charge of 45 per cent would produce a p/e of 14.7.

Last week's sunny weather seemed an appropriate time for ET Sutherland, the Sheffield food group, to announce its latest acquisition. It has bought Saint Martin Foods, which produces an extensive range of salads, quiches,



Joel Bradley: building new facility to make isotopes

cheesecakes, savoury dips and other fresh foods for £780,000. Sutherland is paying £500,000 down with the balance satisfied by the issue of extra shares.

Saint Martin claims to have 10 per cent of the British fresh salad market and customers include Harrods and Boots with their own label products.

Mr Michael Moss, chairman of Sutherland, said: "The acquisition of Saint Martin Foods ties in with the company's strategy to concentrate on producing quality products at competitive prices for small and multiple retailers."

Sutherland finished the week at 77p. Another company hoping to make its debut on the USM shortly is SEP Industrial Holding, the specialized fasteners and precision components engineer. At present, SEP is quoted on the over-the-counter market but is hoping to make the move to the USM before the end of the year.

SEP has turned out to be something of a success story under the canny leadership of Mr Paul Formby, chairman, who with the backing of various institutions has quadrupled earnings.

He has turned the group from a sleepy concern into a fast growing outfit well known among do-it-yourself enthusiasts. Pretax profits have grown from just £37,000 to £470,000, helped by an aggressive acquisition programme. Brokers such as Charlton Seal Dimmock expect pretax profits for the current year to September 30 to reach £780,000.

To speed its growth and attract a greater number of institutional investors into Johnson Fry shares, the company will today announce the appointment of Mr Alistair Macpherson as a non-executive director.

"Increasingly nowadays institutional investors like to see non-executive directors on a board before they buy a stock, and we will find his expertise very useful," says Mr Barker.

Mr Macpherson is a partner in the City law firm of Ashurst Morris Crisp and is also a non-executive director of Smith & Nephew.

In the past year Johnson Fry has earned a fee income of

more than £250,000 from its corporate clients.

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Johnson Fry prepares to expand its services range with acquisitions

Johnson Fry, the fast-growing financial services house, is best known to most private investors as Britain's leading sponsor of Business Expansion Schemes.

While it is true that Johnson Fry has raised more than £35 million for unquoted companies in the past year, it is a USM company in its own right, with ambitions of its own.

It was founded by Mr Charles Fry, its present chairman and joint managing director, as an insurance and mortgage broker in 1969, and has since evolved into what can be described as a mini-merchant bank.

It was floated on to the USM in December last year at

a placing price of 150p and its shares closed on Friday at 216p — a new high. It puts them on an historic price/earnings ratio of 18, against a rating of about 28 for other similar companies. Its interim figures for the six months to the end of May and before the end of May and could lead to another re-rating of the share price.

Johnson Fry has grown significantly — it has a client list of 46,000, some 10,000 of whom are active traders, and its funds under discretionary management have risen to £25 million, which is 25 per cent more than at the time of flotation five months ago.

In their impatience to expand the range and volume of

services still further, Mr Fry and his joint managing director, Mr Kevin Barker, are in the process of negotiating four acquisitions which, if all goes according to plan, should be announced within — or even before — the interim results.

Mr Barker, aged 32, who joined Johnson Fry two years ago from the accountancy firm Deloitte where he had worked as a senior tax manager, said: "The acquisitions will be involved with investment, insurance and corporate finance. We want to be able to offer all the financial services that could be required by a wealthy individual or a small or medium-sized corporate client."

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UNLISTED SECURITIES

USM A-D

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume	Turnover
11.000 Albion	150	+	150	145	145	150	100	15.00
11.000 Albion	150	+	150	145	145	150	100	15.00
11.000 Albion	150	+	150	145	145	150	100	15.00
11.000 Albion	150	+	150	145	145	150	100	15.00
11.000 Albion	150	+	150	145	145	150	100	15.00

USM E-K

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume	Turnover
11.000 Albion	150	+	150	145	145	150	100	15.00
11.000 Albion	150	+	150	145	145	150	100	15.00
11.000 Albion	150	+	150	145	145	150	100	15.00
11.000 Albion	150	+	150	145	145	150	100	15.00
11.000 Albion	150	+	150	145	145	150	100	15.00

USM L-R

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume	Turnover
11.000 Albion	150	+	150	145	145	150	100	15.00
11.000 Albion	150	+	150	145	145	150	100	15.00
11.000 Albion	150	+	150	145	145	150	100	15.00
11.000 Albion	150	+	150	145	145	150	100	15.00
11.000 Albion	150	+	150	145	145	150	100	15.00

USM S-Z

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume	Turnover
11.000 Albion	150	+	150	145	145	150	100	15.00
11.000 Albion	150	+	150	145	145	150	100	15.00
11.000 Albion	150	+	150	145	145	150	100	15.00
11.000 Albion	150	+	150	145	145	150	100	15.00
11.000 Albion	150	+	150	145	145	150	100	15.00

Dixons at 14% of electrical retailing

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

The Dixons Group has pushed up its market share of electrical retailing both in its Dixons chain and in Currys, from 12.5 per cent in 1985 to 14 per cent last year.

Rumbelows, the Thorn-EMI subsidiary, held its ground in the market place but Comet, part of Woolworth, was a weaker performer.

These estimates come from the latest report on electrical retailers by Verdict Research which underlines the continued growth of sales in electrical goods. Spending on such products in Britain last year rose to nearly £7.5 billion, fuelled by the continued trend for price reductions.

Last year, prices of electrical goods fell by nearly 3 per cent, the report states, and substantial future growth is predicted. Since 1978 the market has grown by 133 per cent in real terms, taking out inflation, while all retail sales have grown by 26 per cent.

The best performance last year within the Dixons group was by Currys. Its market share was lifted from 6.4 per cent to 7.2 per cent. The Dixons chain rose from 5.4 per cent to 6 per cent.

The Rumbelows share was 4.2 per cent. Its turnover has kept pace with market growth during the present decade and its share of trade was maintained, says the report.

Comet's market share fell from 5.5 per cent in 1985 to 5.3 per cent last year, according to Verdict. It was the pioneer of out-of-town retailing in electrical goods and has been a leading discount store.

Comet is concentrating in the short-term on improving its profitability but the underlying sales trend is also improving, according to the report.

Verdict on Electrical Retailers: £450 from Verdict Research, 112 High Holborn, London WC1V 6JS.

Textiles output up again

By Teresa Poole

Output of textiles rose only 1 per cent last year, representing the fourth successive annual increase but leaving production 20 per cent lower than the pre-recession 1979 level.

The textile and clothing industries contributed an estimated £4.83 billion to the national economy last year and accounted for 10 per cent of employment in the manufacturing industry with over half a million jobs, said the British Textile Confederation's annual review, published today.

Recovery from the recession in the early eighties, when employment and output slumped, continued last year with the industry benefiting from good domestic growth and the fall of sterling against European currencies.

Adverse factors, including fewer American tourists, unseasonable weather and rising imports from the Far East, meant only a small overall increase in production.

Mr Harry Leach, the chairman of the BTC, claimed there has been "little short of a revolution" with the widespread adoption of computer-controlled production systems, advances in productivity and rising exports.

Output per head rose by 2.5 per cent last year, bringing the increase since 1980 to 40 per cent.

Exports would be much higher were it not for many potentially large overseas markets which have posed "scandalously" high barriers to trade in terms of import duty rates, Mr Leach said.

Rustle of fiscal privilege amid spreading forests

ANALYSIS

The Government's commitment to a publicly financed programme of afforestation has remained unchanged since 1919, the year in which the Forestry Commission was established. However, the justifications for forestry have altered dramatically from the original strategic requirement to be self-sufficient in timber in wartime.

With the recognition that the next large-scale war would probably be nuclear, and, therefore, short, the strategic argument was abandoned in 1957. Since then, justifications for forestry have proliferated, chief among them being economic, social and environmental.

Whether forestry is achieving its social and environmental objectives is hardest to prove or disprove. The comparative beauty of forests is a matter of taste, the fate of wildlife has often been treated as being of secondary importance to economic objectives. The annals of forestry are full of examples of the destruction or semi-destruction of important habitats.

The latest justifications for the continued subsidization of forestry have, therefore, been mainly economic. And the low returns available have caused the economic justifications to focus specifically on import saving and the reduction of EEC surpluses.

The existence of coniferous forests is enabling Scotland to have an indigenous downstream industry, manufacturing newsprint from home grown trees. In this way, so the argument goes, we save imports. Mr Ronnie Williams, secretary to the Forestry Industry Committee of Great Britain, has pointed out that it takes 2.5 tonnes of pulpwood, valued at £65 at the mill gate, to make 1 tonne of newsprint worth £350.

We now have a chicken-and-egg situation where subsidized trees, which were planted for strategic reasons, are being used in a newsprint industry which is now in turn being used to justify the subsidization of more trees.

If there are compelling so-



Steve Tomkins

Shallow rooted spruces on wet unstable soils are especially vulnerable to windthrow, above.

Catastrophic windthrow describes damage caused when severe gales strike forests. In the gales of January, 1968, about 32 square miles were blown over, involving 1.4 million tonnes of timber which was still being cleared two years later. The forestry commission paid a subsidy of

£409,000 to transport the timber to sawmills. The next such gale will cause even more damage because of the rate of planting.

"Endemic windthrow" caused every year as a result of normal winter gales is of far greater economic importance. As can be seen from the charts below, rising productivity at the Forestry Commission undermines the case for rural employment.

Special reasons for keeping the pulp mills in existence, there may be an argument for subsidizing the replanting of felled sites - but it is hardly a justification for planting new forests.

If the same arguments were applied to subsidizing forests as were applied to subsidizing the rest of British industry such as the Cornish tin mines, we would have a very different result. There were far fewer

opponents of the tin mines than there are of forestry yet that industry was allowed to die.

A key question for policy makers is whether we have a competitive advantage in growing trees. The clear answer is that we have not.

Trees grow up to five times faster in tropical countries than in even the best sites in temperate climates. Only the poorest land has been made available for large-scale afforestation, giving even slower

growth rates and greater damage from windthrow.

And the Forestry Commission itself says: "It is by no means clear that import saving has any special merit. Participation in international trade gives the opportunity for a country to achieve an overall higher level of economic welfare by allowing production resources to be concentrated in activities to which the country is best suited. The resulting output can then be traded for goods which can be produced more cheaply in other countries." (Wood Production Outlook, 1977.)

By subsidizing forests, or indeed any uncompetitive activity, resources are diverted from industries where we have a competitive advantage, to the detriment of the economy as a whole.

The latest justification for forestry is that land has to be taken out of agricultural use to reduce the European Community surpluses. It is hardly ever pointed out that the Scottish uplands, where most forests are planted, are among the least productive agricultural land and will therefore have the least impact on surpluses.

Land for afforestation is also usually sheep farming land and there is, as yet, no mutton mountain. To make a meaningful impact on EEC surpluses, fertile lowland ground needs to come out of agricultural production, but the current system of tax relief fails to encourage this.

Meanwhile, forestry can adversely affect the economics of other activities in the countryside. The North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board has long expressed concern at the loss of water from its catchments caused by afforestation. The practice of deep ploughing up and down the slope results in "extremely fast run-off with consequent serious erosion and siltation" according to the board, (House of Lords 1980).

A study of forestry published by the Council for the Protection of Rural England, *Growing Against the Grain*, estimates that 24 per cent of afforestation land is in the hydro-electric board's catchment areas. If all of this were planted, it calculates that it would cost £7-£8 million in lost electricity (1980 prices).

Anglers complain that rivers become polluted, salmon spawning grounds silt up and fishing pools are choked. The quality of the water can also change, acidification and contamination with fertilisers being highlighted.

In the case of tourism, Mr Williams points out that "far from endangering the tourist industry, forestry makes a positive contribution to it... some 24 million people visited Forestry Commission forests last year." It is equally possible that the tourists are visiting the facilities provided by the Forestry Commission. Nature centres and market trails might be just as popular stripped of their surrounding trees.

The Forestry Commission's record in providing access to its forests is good but the experience of the private sector has been less favourable and unthinned forests positively hinder access to the countryside.

Despite the lack of obvious benefits, the rate of afforestation is set to increase with the Government's blessing. Battered with fiscal privilege and free from planning controls, the forestry industry has both a powerful vested interest in maintaining the status quo, and the means to lobby for its case.

Carol Ferguson

Watershed week for future of open trade

The slide into protectionism in the United States arrives at a watershed this week. The long-awaited omnibus trade bill, the latest attempt by Congress to breach the nation's treaty obligations, is due to reach the floor of the House of Representatives tomorrow. It will contain initiatives to support training and research to improve US competitiveness. More ominously, it will preclude the President from negotiating a new round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade without a mandate from Congress. But the guts of it is likely to lie in the Gephardt amendment, named after a Congressman who astutely sees discriminatory import controls as the ideal launching pad for his presidential ambitions.

Depending on its final formulation, Representative Gephardt's contribution is likely to demand automatic discriminatory presidential action against imports from any country with a persistently high bilateral trade surplus with the United States. Under pressure from the House establishment, there will be caveats. The crying foreign nation must be deemed to have unfair trading practices and failing to cut its surplus - probably by 10 per cent a year - after due warning.

This is unlikely to mean much since the very existence of a continuing bilateral imbalance is now taken by protectionists (including the European Commission) to be evidence of unfair practices. This equation leads to curiously circular arguments.

In Tokyo last week, for instance, EEC External Trade Commissioner Willy de Clercq met the familiar Japanese claim that its surplus with the Community might have something to do with 30,000 Japanese businessmen working away in the EEC while only 2,000 EEC businessmen are trying in Japan. He countered that there would only be more if the Japanese market were open making it worthwhile trying to sell there. This is not going to get us far. According to one survey, German businessmen, the most successful Europeans in Japan, cited intensity of competition in the market as their biggest problem.

The US trade bill is most unlikely to contain any mention of Gatt as the arbiter of whether trade practices are unfair according to the rules of open international trade. In any case, any softening in the bill's formulation will not reflect respect for Gatt rules against trade discrimination. Rather, the Speaker of the House and its Democrat-controlled rules committee want the Bill to pass swiftly with strong bipartisan support, giving it sufficient momentum to deter any attempt at presidential veto after it passes the Senate in the autumn.

A surplus nation amendment could easily be applied to Germany and the European Community as a whole, a fearsome weapon in future Atlantic trade disputes. It is intended as a warning shot for Taiwan and South Korea, which are reaching the stage where trade surpluses no longer justify protection permitted to developing countries under Gatt. But it is directly aimed at Japan.

The basic bill should be voted through just in time for the arrival in Washington of Japan's Prime Minister for talks destined to be dominated by trade. Mr Nakasone is clearly a man who strides towards elephant traps with unusual confidence. Mr Reagan's week-end radio broadcast may have helped.

Graham Searjeant
Financial Editor

The new absentee landlords

The practical consequences of the Government's forestry policy, which is operated through a system of grants and tax reliefs, is giving rise to growing criticism.

Tax concessions which were originally designed to encourage re-stocking of woodlands has resulted in the rapid afforestation of the Scottish uplands with predominately coniferous species.

Far from integrating forestry and farming, one of the stated aims of the Forestry Commission, it is no exaggeration to state that current policy serves to set farmers and foresters against each other, in the process creating a new breed of absentee landlords.

Because farmers are usually low tax-payers, they cannot afford to undertake large-scale

afforestation. Farming land is, therefore, gradually being acquired by high taxpaying investors, most of whom do not live in the area and some of whom may not even know where their land is.

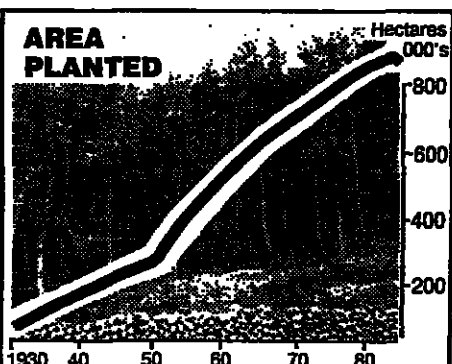
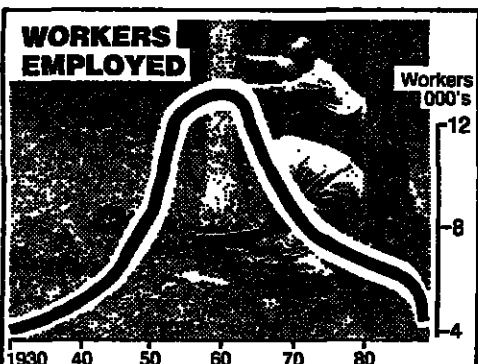
Recent proposals to give an annual payment to farmers to plant trees in addition to planting grants would encourage farmers to plant woodlands, but as long as the tax incentives remain, these proposals would not alter the attractions to investors of large-scale afforestation.

The tax concessions on forestry, available since 1916, took on a new importance for high earners when the post-war Labour government pushed personal tax rates up to unprecedentedly high levels. Under the Conservative

government, the highest tax rates are no longer penal, but they are still high enough to make forestry financially attractive to those with high incomes. This does not make it economically viable. It merely enables investors to transmute income - much of which would otherwise be paid away in tax - into capital.

As discussed in an earlier article in this column, even with tax reliefs, the returns are poor.

The bull market of the last several years will have caused some private investors to regret owning an unmarketable asset with low returns which behaves like a blotting paper for cash when they could have earned better returns on the stock market without sacrificing liquidity.



Identity crisis at the SE

An embarrassing moment for Sir Nicholas Goodison, the Stock Exchange chairman, would probably rather forget. As word first filtered through to his City office that a Merrill Lynch man had a Russian sounding name had been ac-



"We computer-checked all 650 MPs and only 2,500 of them applied for British Airways shares"

cused by the US Securities and Exchange Commission of insider trading, I'm told he jumped a little too hastily to an understandably obvious conclusion. His aide, struggling with the foreign name, told him it ended with "vich." "Yassukovich?" asked an incredulous Goodison. "That's it," said the vague aide, throwing the Stock Exchange hierarchy into immediate panic as to how they could possibly suspend their deputy chairman, Stanislas Yassukovich, who is also European head of Merrill, will be amused to learn that more than half an hour passed before Goodison learned - via an official statement - that the man in question was in fact Nahum Vaskevitch, Merrill's London head of mergers and acquisitions.

Market moves

Two of the 35 or so defunct Greenwell Montagu market-makers have found new employment with Scrimgeour Vickers, the British stock-broking arm of American investment house Citicorp. Alan Gordon and Ken Gankerser will be joining Scrimgeour during the next week, enabling the firm to launch, from Friday, four new market-making sectors. As well as motors and compo-

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Paul Winner the loser

Liberal candidate-turned-public relations consultant Paul Winner - cousin of film director Michael - has switched his attentions from politics to the pen. At a star-studded party at the Arts Club on Thursday, he will launch his book *Effective PR Management*. Among the 200 guests will be Lord Batterworth, who once taught Win-

ners, headed by Mr Gordon, and oils by Mr Gankerser. Scrimgeour will launch specialities in property and insurance - led by Adrian Lewis and Charles Proe respectively. This will bring the total number of sectors covered by Scrimgeour to 13 - representing 60 per cent of all companies quoted on the London Stock Exchange. Scrimgeour's poaching activities have not, however, been restricted to Greenwell. It is also, I hear, in the process of recruiting three

salesmen - Alan Higgins from BZW, John Howes from Kitkat Aitken, and Christopher York from Capel-Care Myers. A French businessman visiting Dublin was being shown over the Parliament building. In the press gallery, he saw desks marked *Belfast Newsletter*, *Sunday News* and *Cork Examiner*. "Mon Dieu," he exclaimed, "in France, we know all about wine but we have never had an inspector for corks."

Tears and the executive

Contrary to popular belief, if an executive woman bursts into tears in the office it is not because she cannot cope with the job or wants to manipulate the boss. It is, apparently, because she is angry. "Professional women cry because they want to be better," says Kathleen Hoover-Dempsey, professor of psychology at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, and co-author of a report *Tears and Weeping Among Professional Women*. Of the 200 men and women surveyed, 80 per cent of the women said they cried at work. Of those, 20 per cent said they cried more than 10 times a year. As many as 50 per cent of the men also said they had cried at work at some point. The psychologists concluded that when women executives cry in the office they do not want their boss to take care of them - they want him to address the issue they are angry about. Ms Hoover-Dempsey adds: "Most women cannot express their anger in any other way. They couldn't visualize shouting back or arguing. It was either fight the tears, leave the room, or break down."

Carol Leonard

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Portfolio - Gold -

From your portfolio check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Marshall's (Hull)	Building, Roads	
2	Clyde	Oil, Gas	
3	Whitbread	Breweries	
4	Allied Lon	Property	
5	Cater Allen	Bank, Discount	
6	Avana	Food	
7	Auto Sec	Electricals	
8	Alison	Drugs, Stores	
9	Partridge	Property	
10	Chloride	Electricals	
11	Lyles (S)	Textiles	
12	King & Shaxson	Bank, Discount	
13	Asac Br For	Shipping	
14	Barr (AG)	Electricals	
15	CAP Group	Textiles	
16	Carver	Textiles	
17	Wainshaw (R)	Textiles	
18	Green	Food	
19	Debon	Textiles	
20	Stead & Simpson	Drugs, Stores	
21	McCarthy & S	Building, Roads	
22	AS Food (sa)	Food	
23	Campani	Leisure	
24	Perinsson	Building, Roads	
25	Dunhill	Drugs, Stores	
26	BSG	Motor, Aircraft	
27	Boddington	Breweries	
28	Kwik-Fit	Motor, Aircraft	
29	Oxoni	Electricals	
30	Scollin	Mining	
31	Imperial Dair	Breweries	
32	BRF	Motor, Aircraft	
33	Vitrolplant	Building, Roads	
34	Burnham	Oil, Gas	
35	Security Serv	Industrial S-Z	
36	Brake Bros	Food	
37	Smith David	Paper, Print, Adv	
38	UEI	Electricals	
39	Mercury Tail	Bank, Discount	
40	Stonehill	Industrial S-Z	
41	Lee Ltd	Leisure	
42	Loxell (GF)	Food	
43	Br Borneo	Oil, Gas	
44	Periton	Drugs, Stores	

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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8.00 on Saturday's newspaper.

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BRITISH FUNDS

Stock out of market

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1986-1987

1987-1988

1988-1989

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2032-2033

2033-2034

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2035-2036

2036-2037

2037-2038

2038-2039

2039-2040

Capitalization and week's change

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin today. Dealings end May 8. Settlement day May 11. Settlement day May 18.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices. (sa) denotes Alpha Stocks

BREWERIES

C Company		Friday move		price	Y	P
2.25.00m	Bill Doot (sa)	282	+18	14.5	4.8	57.73
2.25.00m	Brewery (sa)	272	+18	13.5	5.2	52.73
2.25.00m	Carlsberg (sa)	272	+18	14.0	5.0	52.73
2.25.00m	Heineken (sa)	272	+18	14.0	5.0	52.73
2.25.00m	Smith David (sa)	272	+18	14.0	5.0	52.73
2.25.00m	UEI (sa)	272	+18	14.0	5.0	52.73
2.25.00m	Whitbread (sa)	272	+18	14.0	5.0	52.73
2.25.00m	Wainshaw (R) (sa)	272	+18	14.0	5.0	52.73
BREWERS						
2.71.0.75m	Allied-Lyons (sa)	282	+18	14.5	5.7	57.73
2.25.00m	Brewery (sa)	272	+18	13.5	5.2	52.73
2.25.00m	Carlsberg (sa)	272	+18	14.0	5.0	52.73
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2.25.00m	Dunhill (sa)	272	+18	14.0	5.0	52.73
2.25.00m	BSG (sa)	272	+18	14.0	5.0	52.73
2.25.00m	Boddington (sa)	272	+18	14.0	5.0	52.73
2.25.00m	Kwik-Fit (sa)	272	+18	14.0	5.0	52.73
2.25.00m	Oxoni (sa)	272	+18	14.0	5.0	52.73
2.25.00m	Scollin (sa)	272	+18	14.0	5.0	52.73
2.25.00m	Smith David (sa)	272	+18	14.0	5.0	52.73
2.25.00m	UEI (sa)	272	+18	14.0	5.0	52.73
2.25.00m	Whitbread (sa)	272	+18	14.0	5.0	52.73
2.25.00m	Wainshaw (R) (sa)	272	+18	14.0	5.0	52.73
2.25.00m	Green (sa)	272	+18	14.0	5.0	52.73
2.25.00m	Debon (sa)	272	+18	14.0	5.0	52.73
2.25.00m	Stead & Simpson (sa)	272	+18	14.0	5.0	52.73
2.25.00m	McCarthy & S (sa)	272	+18	14.0	5.0	52.73
2.25.00m	AS Food (sa)	272	+18	14.0	5.0	52.73
2.25.00m	Campani (sa)	272	+18	14.0	5.0	52.73
2.25.00m	Perinsson (sa)	272	+18	14.0	5.0	52.73
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2.25.00m	BSG (sa)	272	+18	14.0	5.0	52.73
2.25.00m	Boddington (sa)	272	+18	14.0		

POSTS

[REDACTED]

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

LOOK OUT FOR No.1

Make sure you're getting the best possible treatment in the country.

As one of London's leading temporary agencies for top level secretaries we can offer you a wide range of senior assignments.

We pay the full market rate and, in addition, offer a non contributory holiday pay scheme and free word processor cross training.

And all you have to do to look after number one is to call Sally Dowson or Vanessa Horsfall.

Carrington House, 130 Regent Street, LONDON W1 Tel: 01-439 0601 (Entrance in Regent Place above Iberia Airways)



THE WORK SHOP

Snappy Receptionist

£9,500

You have that talent for great reception? This international U.S.A. based trading company look for high standards and commitment. Show off your skills as you impress international visitors, manage a hectic switchboard and polish off the typing. Working in a superb building this role will develop into something internationally special as you prove your brilliance. Accurate typing and WP experience essential. Age 22-29? Call for the full picture 01-409 1232.

ADMIN OFFICER/SENIOR SECRETARY

A promotion within the office means we are now looking for a successor to our Admin. Officer - to take up post by early June this year - in a busy Information Service answering enquiries about disability from the general public and professional subscribers.

The major duties are maintenance of manual and computerised subscription records, and dealing with enquiries about subscription schemes. Also, wordprocessing and supervision of other secretarial staff to ensure that all office procedures run smoothly.

Essential skills required: 50wpm typing (audio and copy) and well-proven fluency in Wordstar. Experience of computerised record management will be advantageous (but training can be given).

Salary: in the range £8,706 - £10,611 (incl. of LW); the starting salary may be above the minimum.

Applications (no agencies please): immediately - in writing and with full C.V. to:

Susan Grant, Senior Admin. Officer,
Disabled Living Foundation, 380/384 Harrow Rd, London W9 2HU
(The DLF is an equal opportunities employer)

PA - £12,000

HAMMERSMITH

1 minute from underground

A newly established, young, rapidly expanding credit company urgently seeks two PAs with 'A' level education for two similar recruited International Directors to a European language is an advantage. You will use shorthand and be cross-trained onto IBM Multimate while arranging travel, conferences, etc. This is a highly motivated organisation offering excellent career prospects, five weeks holiday, free medical cover. Age 25-35.

Bernadette of Bond St.
Recruitment Consultants
No 55 West door to Portico
01-439 1234

WINE TASTING £9,500

A reputable wine merchant near Embankment is looking to recruit a secretary to the Chairman, a Buying Director and his assistant. You will be called upon to use French in composing and translating releases and should have some rusty shorthand and audio (WP experience useful, although training given). Your day will be busy and interesting and duties include the organising of wine tastings. Age 30+.

Bernadette of Bond St.
Recruitment Consultants
No 55 West door to Portico
01-439 1234

PROFESSIONAL EXECUTIVE RECEPTIONIST £10,000+

You must look the part to join a team of four experienced receptionists in a superb legal company in the City. You must be socially confident and possess an excellent speaking voice while dealing with high prestige clients. Stimulating and varied duties with L.V.s, free health cover and 2 salary reviews per annum. Age 25-30.

Bernadette of Bond St.
Recruitment Consultants
No 55 West door to Portico
01-439 1234

Temporaries

Did you get paid for the bank holiday?

If you were working for Manpower, almost certainly yes. That's just one of the benefits of working for the world's leading temporary help organisation. You also start to build up an annual holiday entitlement of up to four weeks with pay. All on top of excellent rates of pay and free word processor training.

Next holiday, work for Manpower! Call us now.

MANPOWER Tel: 225 0505
Temporary Staff Specialists 24 hour answering service

TRADING PLACES £12,000

Join this top City company as PA/Secretary to an executive in charge of funding. Whilst needing good secretarial support, he will delegate and there are superb prospects, perhaps to take on your own trading responsibilities. 80/50 skills and WP experience needed.

EXECUTIVE SUITE £10,600

Join this prestigious and very well known organisation as secretary in the Chairman's office. Based in luxurious surroundings your duties will include meeting and liaising with VIP's and helping organise social events, so a socially confident and poised manner is required. 100/50 skills and WP experience needed.

Please telephone 01-240 3551

Elizabeth Hunt
Recruitment Consultants
2 Bow Lane London EC4

CAREER DESIGN LIMITED

FUTURE IN PERSONNEL

£12,000 + banking benefits

A marvellous opportunity to join this personnel manager and assist in the organising and computerisation of all personnel system. Develop the role to incorporate new policies, training and recruitment whilst offering your secretarial skills as an initial back up. This highly confidential position needs a self-motivated and experienced PA.

For further details please call

DIANE HILTON OR KARIN PARNABY
ON 01 489 0899/01 236 2522

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
1 GROVELAND COURT, BOW LANE, LONDON EC4M 3EJ
TELEPHONE: 01-489 0899

VIDEOS FOR TRAVEL 2ND JOBBER £8,500

Tremendous variety while reporting to the programme manager of VHS entertainment video company. Your team is full technical and all administration, therefore you will have a great time in a relaxed and fun environment. With good SH/Typing, strong telephone manner and a very lively personality join Caroline Wallinger.

STAFF INTRODUCTIONS
01-486 6951

ADMIN IN PERSONNEL & MARKETING £8,500 PUBLISHING COMPANY

This position offers terrific prospects coupled with a fascinating training process. They publish international news and offer you the benefits of a stimulating environment, great company car and the chance to max some typing (40 wpm in line) with a variety of other duties. Take the first step away from the mundane and join Lynn East now.

STAFF INTRODUCTIONS
01-486 6951

JOURNALISM/PUBLISHING OFFICE MANAGER PA £11,000

The dynamic MD will delegate the more interesting aspects of this post to you during his frequent travels. Handle the James Secs with a mixture of understanding and firmness. A graduate with a literary frame of mind coupled with a sense of communication would be ideal for this respected publishing house. SH/H and WP essential. Ring Caroline Wallinger.

STAFF INTRODUCTIONS
01-486 6951

TELEVISION - £11,500 Director of IR needs upfront and quick thinking PA to run his busy office and take responsibility for the general company admin. 22+ 100/60

ADVERTISING VP - £11,000 Recently promoted VP of top 10 agency needs a down to earth secretary/PA with good advertising experience and a sense of humour as his partner in crime. 24+ 90/60

CHELSEA PR - £9,000 Dynamic, young PR consultancy with entertainment, food & wine and high tech clients need a bright secretary to assist with the running of a major account. 20-24 60 typing.

491 8775
Recruitment Consultants

PORTMAN BANKING

PERSONNEL SECRETARY

£9,500 + BONUS + MORT SUB

An excellent opportunity has arisen for a bright young secretary who is currently seeking an interesting and challenging new position.

Based within the expanding personnel area of this major Merchant Bank, your duties will be varied and include a large amount of administration and telephone liaison. Applicants should be well educated with shorthand skills of at least 80 wpm and previous WP experience. A flexible nature and the ability to work in a hectic team environment are essential qualities required for this busy role.

Personnel Recruitment Services Limited
Tel: 01-234 1113

DESIGNER IN COVENT GARDEN £12,500 + BENEFITS

You don't need shorthand or audio to enter the fascinating world of corporate design as an administrative secretary working for the creative director and his young team of designers. You will be involved in interesting projects - standards and presentations, make travel arrangements and liaise with clients internationally. Hopefully you will come from an advertising or creative background with your sound typing and enthusiasm please Monica Woeschner.

STAFF INTRODUCTIONS
01-486 6951

A FUTURE IN BROKING £9,500 PLUS PLUS A CAREER ENSURED

Train with a team in this well run corporation assisting a broker to cope with his daily brokerage pack. Organising interviews, with the prospect of a promotion to a dynamic and fast paced environment. A progressive person eager to succeed. Use your typing at first as a secretary and then move on to the role into which you will be trained. Last now.

STAFF INTRODUCTIONS
01-486 6951

A TALENT TO CREATE LANGUAGES £11,000

A career in the fast moving and highly pressured world of creative business communications and design is open to a talented PA with fluent French, Italian and maybe Spanish to work for the Product Development Director. He achieves for Macclesfield Companies is renowned Designer.

This job offers tremendous variety and scope. With excellent skills and a high level of commitment. Please Monica Woeschner.

STAFF INTRODUCTIONS
01-486 6951

SECRETARY TO DIRECTOR

Expanding young Property Company require efficient Secretary.

Prerequisites: Typing 50/60 wpm and good telephone manner; ability to cope under pressure.

Please contact: **Celina Buss** 493 3996

TEMPS - TEMPS - TEMPS

THE SECRET'S OUT . . .

Now everybody knows that we've got the best team of temps in Town. That's why the phones are buzzing with even more requests from top companies in TV, FILMS, PR, PUBLISHING & MUSIC. If you've got secretarial skills and enjoy being looked after in a friendly, informal yet professional way why not join us?

Ring Margaret Mills or Judy Fisher for all the details on 01 493 0238

JUDY FISHER
ANNA TATES
Recruitment Consultants

EXCEPTIONAL RECEPTIONIST

Fast growing property company requires bright, well spoken receptionist for busy Mayfair office. Excellent telephone manner essential as are good presentation and organising skills. We are looking for confidence, competence and a cool head. A sense of humour is vital. Top salary for the right person.

Please contact **Isabella** 01 493 4007.

BRILLIANT RECEPTIONIST £10,000

Fairly trendy advertising agency crowd need to be screened and protected by smart & clever senior receptionist. You'll need to have your wits about you and enjoy organising.

Please call **GINA NELSON**, 39 VICTORIA ST, SW1 01-630 0844

Office Angels
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MARKETING

An exciting opportunity exists for an ambitious younger person with secretarial and organisational skills. The successful applicant will report to the U.K. Marketing Manager and will contribute to the presentation of the Company, and liaison with advertising agencies, public relations and press.

Pason Limited is a rapidly growing, dynamic, computer company with product sales throughout Europe, the United States and the rest of the world. Salary will start in the range £8,000 - £11,000 p.a. depending on background.

Send full C.V. to the Marketing Manager, Pason Limited, Pason House, Harcourt Street, London W1H 1DT.

PSION

SECRETARY TO A BUSY MARKETING DEPARTMENT

which handles in house company marketing, advertising, PR and promotional activities. Would ideally suit an experienced person who is seeking to return to the workplace. Preference given to PR or property experience. Word processing training given.

If you are interested come and talk to us.

Contact Susan Hammond
Bernard Thorpe & Partners
19-24 Saint George Street, Hove Square
London W1R 9RE. Tel: 01-499 6353

PASTIS IN PARIS!

You could win a romantic weekend for two in Paris in our monthly draw. As a temp with us you receive a free raffle ticket each week you work. Shorthand and audio secretaries, copy typists, and telephonists/receptionists are all needed now for City and West End bookings with our discerning but appreciative clients. For top rates and a warm welcome, get lucky!

call Rosemary Hamer on City 377 8600
West End 439 7001

SECRETARIES PLUS
The Secretaries' Club

Senior Secretary MATERNITY LEAVE CONTRACT £12,000 p.a. pro rata

He's a director who goes around the world on Audio as well as S/hand needed, 6 month contract with paid overtime. Flexhours in lovely WC2 offices.

Please call **JOY ADAMS** 01-430 2531

Office Angels
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

GOOD NEWS FOR TEMPS

Become an Elizabeth Hunt Temporary secretary and not only will you ensure you are regularly employed but we are able to offer WP TRAINING AND X-TRAINING. Naturally you will have good secretarial skills. Competitive rates of pay will be offered.

Please telephone **Fiona Bangh** on 01-240 3511

Elizabeth Hunt
Recruitment Consultants
2-3 Bedford Street London WC2

CHARING X £11,500

A property company as secretary to their managing director. He is very pleasant and keen to delegate. You'll have your own modern office and there's the ability to be one step ahead. Company at 10.0 level of interest. Please telephone 01-240 3511.

Elizabeth Hunt
Recruitment Consultants
2-3 Bedford Street London WC2

BI-LINGUAL SECRETARIES

FRENCH £10,000 + perks
French speaking secretary to work for 2 analysts in Telecom Bank. 2nd job with strong personality and aspects of 50/50 for post with permanent duties.

SPANISH £10,500 + perks
Record company requires easy going, cheerful secretary with skills of 100/60 for work for Vice President of company's European business affairs. For details of terms and other personnel and temporary bilingual secretaries please contact **Joan Beazley Associates** 01 CHANCERY LANE LONDON WC2 (Near Cons)

AB

RANK ADVERTISING FILMS LIMITED

SECRETARY TO MANAGING DIRECTOR

Sapable audio secretary required. Salary according to age and experience. Apply to The Personnel Administrator 127 Wardour Street London, W1V 4AD Telephone No. 01-439 9531 ext. 204

COLLEGE LEAVER to £9,000

Leading Professional Co require well educated, enthusiastic shorthand secretary who is capable of assuming administrative responsibility. Full WP training, and challenging environment assured. Call 377 8777

Middleton Jeffers
RECRUITMENT LIMITED

PA/SECRETARY IN PUBLIC RELATIONS £10,500

Graduate helpful, but not vital, although good education & command of English imperative. Smart West End environment with excellent clientele. Work with valuable with broad sense of humour. 90/60 speeds and knowledge of PC also helpful.

Please call **GINA NELSON** 19 VICTORIA ST, SW1 01-630 0844

Office Angels
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

IN SEARCH OF A CHALLENGE ENTERTAINMENT IN SW1 £12,000

This is an exciting opportunity to combine your numeracy, excellent SH skills (100/60 + WP) with a social awareness. The successful applicant will enjoy dealing with VIPs in the lively surroundings of this prestigious company.

Call us today
Ring Sally Owens on 01 235 8427
4 Port Street, London SW1

K NIGHTSBRIDGE SECRETARIES

IN SEARCH OF A CHALLENGE TOP PA FOR TOP MAN £15,000

The successful post holds a substantial right hand who will probably be a graduate and have the ability to be one step ahead. Company at 10.0 level of interest. Please telephone 01-235 8427

Ring Sally Owens on 01 235 8427
4 Port Street, London SW1

K NIGHTSBRIDGE SECRETARIES

IN SEARCH OF A CHALLENGE PUBLISHING PA £11,000

Working for the MD of this highly successful and fast growing national publisher of books, the MD of this company is looking for a highly motivated and experienced PA with skills (100/60) and sense of humour. CHARTY BEGINS AT HOME £10,500-12,000 p.a. depending on experience. Please telephone 01-235 8427

Call us today
Ring Emma Corbett on 01 235 0393
4 Port Street, London SW1

K NIGHTSBRIDGE SECRETARIES

SCHOLARSHIPS

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Applications are invited for the METCALFE STUDENTSHIP FOR WOMEN, value approximately £1,000 in the case of a full-time student and approximately £500 in the case of a part-time student, tenable for one year in the first instance. Candidates must be graduates of a University of the United Kingdom and must be prepared to undertake research at The London School of Economics on some social, economic or industrial problem to be approved by the University.

Applicants who do not know the result of their Degree Examinations may take provisional application.

Applications, on a prescribed form, must reach The Scholarships Officer, Graduate School, The London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London, WC2 2AE (from whom forms and further details may be obtained) not later than 1 SEPTEMBER 1987.

IMAGE DESIGNERS!

PA with book-keeping, SH not necessary. Fascinating product. For someone mature, intelligent and self-motivated. International business with a strong graphic design content in W1. Age 23+.

Up to £12,500 p.a. + incentives.

Call Mrs Byrnes on 01 235 8991
NORMA SKEMP
Personnel Services
Opp St James's Park tube.

FILM PRODUCTION £9,000

Young well educated secretary (25ish) switched on to enable her to back-up busy production team. Skills 90/55. Lovely West End offices and informal atmosphere.

Ring Vanessa Voelcker

Wendy Johnson
01-492 3882
177 Newman St, W1

1000 YOUNG AMERICANS! £10-10,500

Very busy American College in beautiful central London surroundings needs PA/Sec (audio for their energetic President). Meet and greet visitors, organise travel plus social events, assist students. Excellent perks. 23+.

353 7696

COVENT GARDEN

MEET FAMOUS AUTHORS £9,000

Super job assisting Publicity Director of famous leading Publishers dealing with famous authors, press and TV and will attend glossy social events. Min 1 year's S/H Sec experience.

353 7696

BUREAU

DYNAMIC SECRETARY

Required for small but rapidly expanding young architecture & design firm. Excellent benefits, demanding and varied work, international client base, opportunity to develop your own area of responsibility. 23+ only. OVs for Waterloo Station, From Design 67-69 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1AF.

ESTATE AGENTS

office needs bright efficient secretary to join their busy friendly team. WP, audio, Salary negotiable. Contact Ref KLV for interview

01 381 4133

EXPERIENCED MEDICAL SECRETARY

Required for busy orthopaedic surgeon in Harley Street practice. Salary £5,000 per annum. Please telephone Carol for details

01 636 6521

CHAIRMAN PA £13,000

Your apt and dedicated together with previous experience at chairman level are essential for this prestigious Mayfair Property Company

Adrianne Mackintosh, Cam
Consultants Ltd.
01 491 3944

SLOANE STREET

Int. company in prestigious offices in Sloane Street require secretary with good admin skills. Languages, exp Italian an advantage. Salary c. £7,500

Call 01 235 4391

JACK/JILL OF ALL TRADES

To help run a chaotic office/design studio in SW6. Good telephone manner, typing useful. Must be tidy, numerate and a self-starter. Salary c. £8,000.

Call Tim Summell on 381 6383

TRAINEE P/A c. £8,000

Bright and enthusiastic Typing ability (Possibly school leaver). Full training on WP, admin, computers, meeting clients, etc in friendly West End offices.

01 930 8502

CITY PA £14,000 23+

Unusually experienced with knowledge of finance and law. Excellent benefits, international client base, opportunity to develop your own area of responsibility. 23+ only. OVs for Waterloo Station, From Design 67-69 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1AF.

01 408 1117
Mistprestige
Rec Cons

SECRETARIAL INTERVIEWER

As company of independent agents we are interviewing secretaries for all types of jobs. If you are a secretarial professional with a minimum of 5 years experience in a variety of secretarial roles, please contact Linda Marshall on 01 408 1117

SECRETARIAL INTERVIEWER

As company of independent agents we are interviewing secretaries for all types of jobs. If you are a secretarial professional with a minimum of 5 years experience in a variety of secretarial roles, please contact Linda Marshall on 01 408 1117

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

ITALIAN
Bright experienced Sec with fluent Italian & English to mlt standard read by small friendly firm. Duties include the copy & audio typing and telephone work. Lots of language work. Short-hand and German is an advantage. £10-12,000 + perks. 25-35 years.

FRENCH
Excellent opportunity for a bilingual graduate secretary seeking a challenge and prepared to work alongside a charismatic but demanding Frenchman. Lots of language work. Short-hand and German is an advantage. £10-12,000 + perks. 25-35 years.

SPANISH (LONG TERM TEMP)
Experienced senior sec with fluent Spanish and English, 5 years in both langs and knowledge of IBM Displaywriter required by well known to cover maternity leave (July 87-Jan 88). Salary A&E.

FRENCH IN STAINES
Experienced English/Portuguese sec with fluent French and good German to work at Director level for the well-known Company. You will need at least 2 yrs exp. experience, English + French SH and use of the WP. To £25,500 A&E.

GERMAN
Senior PA/Sec with fluent German and mlt std English for well-known engineering firm. English + SH, fast typing along with a mature, outgoing and capable manner are essential. WP knowledge useful. Lots of client contact and admin duties. Late 20s/early 30s.

GERMAN & FRENCH OFF THE M11
As a tri-lingual Sec/Sales Assistant to the MD of this small but hectic sales office in Staines, you will be using your languages on a daily basis. No SH needed, just good typing skills (copy and audio) and some commercial experience. Duties are extremely varied and you will enjoy total involvement in all aspects of sales & neg. A&E.

BOYCE BILINGUAL
01-404 4434
(Emp Agt)

SECRETARIAL APPOINTMENT AT DIRECTOR LEVEL
PLANNING CONSULTANCY LIMITED is a highly successful company engaged in sales and marketing of personal computers and the provision of related training and professional customer services.
Our Sales Director requires a first class SECRETARY. Candidates should be aged 25+, have good typing and shorthand skills, wp knowledge (extra training will be given). Salary will be £10,000+ with LV's and four weeks holiday for a person with good appearance, excellent telephone manner and the enthusiasm and ability to copy with varied responsibilities in a busy environment.
Please send your cv in the first instance to:
Personnel Department
Planning Consultancy Ltd
46/47 Pall Mall,
London, SW1Y 5JG
(No Agencies)

URGENTLY REQUIRED

Temporary

WP/Secretaries - NOW

With skills of 100/60 wpm and a working knowledge of word processors. Long or short term assignments.
Telephone 01-439 0601 NOW!

MacBlain NASH
Temporary Secretaries
Carrington House, 130 Regent Street, LONDON W1 Tel: 01-439 0601
(Entrance in Regent Place above Baria Airways)

THE SCIENCE MUSEUM SECRETARY/PA to the DIRECTOR

An opportunity for a self-motivated individual with first class secretarial and organisational skills to undertake this challenging position.

Often working on your own initiative you will be responsible for the provision of a full range of secretarial/PA support to the Director and the efficient management of his office. Your natural organisational skills, diplomacy and ability to remain calm under pressure, will be required in this varied and demanding post at the centre of the Museum's activities.

Salary negotiable depending on experience. If you have the professional confidence, flexible working attitude, resourcefulness and experience to take up this opportunity please write or phone for further details and an application form to:

The Science Museum Staff Section,
Exhibition Road, South Kensington,
London SW7 2DD
Telephone 01-581 7985.

Closing date for receipt of applications 8th May 1987.

PROPERTY/AUDIO £12,000

This small West End property company needs a secretary who enjoys working on their own and looking after a small flat and a black Labrador. Aged 24-35.

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT £11,500

The joint owner of this young and successful company with luxurious St. James's offices needs a PA/Secretary. You will become thoroughly involved in both his business and personal life and need to be a good organiser. Speeds 90/60. Aged 23-28.

MD'S AUDIO PA £10,500 +

The workaholic MD of this Lloyds underwriting agency needs a dedicated PA who will enjoy working with a young team. W.P. (Wang) plus good typing. Aged 24-32.

MAGAZINE-COLLEGE LEAVER

This well-known magazine needs a bright young college leaver to join their advertising department. Speeds 80/45. Salary £7,000.

COBBOLD AND DAVIS RECRUITMENT LTD.

35 Bruton Place W1. 01-493 7789

CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY £10,250 WESTMINSTER

PA to dynamic Chief. Not an easy life here but very rewarding (paid overtime too). 100/60 speeds. STL Subs. rest. Car park.

Call Suzanne Dunphy 01-630 0844

Office Angels

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No power to dismiss arbitration for delay

Food Corporation of India v Antelco Shipping Corporation

Before Lord Justice Kerr, Lord Justice Nicholls and Lord Justice Bingham

[Judgment April 7] Where parties had referred their differences to arbitration, delays because of the claimant's inactivity should not occur as both parties were under a mutual obligation to apply to the arbitrator to the delay. But in practice delays did occur in the conduct of arbitration and there was no power in the court or in the arbitrator to dismiss the reference for want of prosecution.

Where there was delay caused by the claimant, silence and inactivity on the part of both parties to an arbitration without an express agreement to drop claims or references to arbitration, the court's task was to see how reasonable parties would interpret such silence and inactivity.

The Court of Appeal, in a reserved judgment, dismissed an appeal by Food Corporation of India (FCI) against an order of Mr Justice Evans (1986) 1 Lloyd's Rep 181 who had dismissed the charterers' summons seeking an injunction restraining further proceedings in an arbitration commenced by Antelco Shipping Corporation, the owners, in December 1974 and a declaration that the arbitration agreement had been abandoned by mutual consent.

The court gave leave to appeal to the House of Lords. Mr Roger Buckley, QC and Mr Peregrine Simon for the charterers; Mr Anthony Clarke, QC and Mr Charles Haddon-Cave for the owners.

LORD JUSTICE BINGHAM said that in practice where a delay occurred in an arbitration the normal policy of a respondent was to lie low and do nothing which might stir the claimant into action.

Proceeding, the court or the arbitrator had no power to dismiss the reference for want of prosecution: see *Bremer Vulkan Schiffbau und Maschinenfabrik v South India Shipping Corporation Ltd* (1981) 1 AC 909.

Attempts had been made by respondents to show that agreements to refer disputes to arbitration had been repudiated or frustrated, but those attempts had failed in principle: see *Paul Wilson & Co v J/S Parvanehdeeri* (1983) 1 AC 854.

asserting that the claim or the reference remained alive. In practice those contentions were not very different.

There were several decisions at first instance in which the application of the relevant legal principles to different factual situations had been skilfully and interestingly explored.

The principles were to be found in three decisions: *Antelco v Compagnie SA v Marine Transocean Ltd* (1981) QB 694, CA; *The Hannah Blumenthal*, a decision of the House of Lords, and *Allied Marine Transport Ltd v Dalrymple & Co* (1983) 1 WLR 925, in which the Court of Appeal ruled on the correct interpretation of their Lordships' decision in *The Hannah Blumenthal* and made observations on the formation of tacit contracts to abandon.

His Lordship observed that it was plain that they had to apply the ratio of the most recent binding authority. *The Leonidas* remained, even if it was not for the Court of Appeal to solve them.

The court's reasoning in *The Leonidas* D might prompt the conclusion that silence and inactivity could never lead to the inference that the claimant was offering to abandon. But that could not be so because the court acknowledged the authority of *The Splendid Sun*.

Lord Diplock's preface remarks in *The Hannah Blumenthal* might suggest that if there was any difference in their Lordships' formulations of principle, Lord Brandon's was to be preferred. But in *The Splendid Sun* the Court of Appeal preferred the approach of Lord Brightman. It was not entirely clear what subjective state of mind the respondent to the claim in an arbitration must be shown to have had.

If, according to ordinary principles, it was necessary for the respondent's acceptance of the claimant's offer to be communicated to the claimant, it was not clear whether it was necessary for the claimant subjectively to understand the respondent's silence and inactivity as having that effect.

In early 1970 the charterers chartered vessels owned by FCI. In re Data Express Ltd where a company's register of members had been lost it was proper to come to the court for an order pursuant to section 359 of the Companies Act 1985 that the new register of members which was blank be rectified by inserting the names of the shareholders, thereby establishing title to the shares. Mr Justice Vinelott said in the Chancery Division on April 7.

ferent owners to carry cargoes to Indian ports. The terms of the charterparties were not identical and a number of different owners took different views on the effect of those provisions when, as was often the case, a vessel had to be lightened before she could be fully discharged.

Thus arbitrators were appointed in several cases.

The present appeal concerned only the charter known as Antelco 1 and was dated October 20, 1973, for a single voyage from the United States to Bombay. The owners and charterers appointed arbitrators in December 1974 and January 1975 respectively.

Between May 1975 and April 1983 there was inactivity in the instant arbitration but there was considerable activity in numerous other disputes involving the same or similar laytime demurrage. By a letter dated April 21, 1983, the owners called on the charterers to pay the demurrage and the balance of freight due for Antelco 1 indicating an intention to proceed to an arbitration award if necessary.

By that time both arbitrators had destroyed their files on that arbitration. In May 1984 the charterers issued their summons.

The question to be asked was: would a reasonable charterer in the position of the present charterers, without any *quid pro quo*, were offering to drop the claim which was certainly not obviously bad, which was the subject of other litigation, and which, with interest, was potentially worth between a quarter and half a million dollars? The answer other than the negative would cause scarcely less surprise in New Delhi than on the Akti Miaouli.

It was suggested that since the owners' claimant was under a contractual duty to prosecute their claim with diligence one should infer that they intended to abandon their claim rather than that they were in breach of that duty.

His Lordship was unwilling, on the facts of the case, to draw any such inference. Lord Justice Kerr and Lord Justice Nicholls gave concurring judgments.

Deutsche Seeschiffahrt- und Tiefseefahrtsgesellschaft mbH v Government of the State of R'As al-Khaimah and Another

Same v R'As al-Khaimah National Oil Company, Shell International Petroleum Co Ltd intervening

Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Woolf and Lord Justice Russell [Judgment March 24]

An award by arbitrators in Geneva which had determined that the parties' dispute was to be resolved according to international accepted principles of law governing contractual relations, as opposed to the law of any particular nation, could be enforced by the English courts without offending public policy.

But some of the arbitrators, though payable outside the jurisdiction, was an asset within the jurisdiction and could be the subject of a *Mareva* injunction to prevent that asset being disposed of pending enforcement of that arbitration award.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing: 1. An appeal by the R'As al-Khaimah National Oil Company ("Rakon") from the order of Mr Justice Leggatt on February 26, 1987, who (a) refused to set aside an order by Mr Justice Bingham on July 2, 1986, granting the claimants, Deutsche Seeschiffahrt- und Tiefseefahrtsgesellschaft mbH ("DST") leave under section 31(1)(a) of the Arbitration Act 1975 and Order 73, rule 10 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, to enforce against Rakon, an award made by arbitrators sitting in Geneva on July 4, 1980; and (b) set aside an order of Mr Justice Staughton on January 22, 1987, granting Rakon leave to serve a writ on DST in Germany claiming to enforce a judgment obtained by Rakon in the court of R'As al-Khaimah on December 3, 1979; and 2. An appeal by Rakon and by the interveners, Shell International Petroleum Co Ltd, from Mr Justice Bingham who on August 8, 1986, refused to discharge a *Mareva* injunction which he had granted on July 2, 1986 on the application of DST.

The bringing of proceedings by Rakon in the court of R'As al-Khaimah was a breach of that arbitration agreement, whose scope was simply wide enough to cover all matters in dispute in the proceedings, and accordingly, under section 32 of the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982, that judgment could not be recognized or enforced by Rakon.

Rakon had also objected that the proceedings had exceeded their jurisdiction but they had not so objected before the arbitrators and in all the circumstances they had not discharged their burden of proving excess of jurisdiction.

The arbitrators had their duty under article 13.3 of the ICC rules, the arbitrators had determined that the proper law governing the substantive obligations of the parties was "internationally accepted principles of law governing contractual relations".

concessions, and not the law of R'As al-Khaimah.

Mr Andrew Longmore, QC, Mr Alan Pardoe and Mr Adrian Hughes for Rakon; Mr David Johnson, QC and Mr Mark Havelock-Allan for Shell; Mr Stuart Boyd, QC and Mr Ian Glick for DST.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that if the arbitrators had not exceeded their jurisdiction, DST had to uphold the validity of the orders both of Mr Justice Bingham and of Mr Justice Leggatt.

DST leave to enforce the award was granted, *quid pro quo* was set aside, *quid pro quo* was set aside, any assets of Rakon in the jurisdiction would disappear overnight in the twinkling of an eye.

The Geneva arbitration award was enforceable in the English courts by virtue of the Arbitration Act 1975, save in the exceptional circumstances set out in section 5. DST had complied with all the formalities required by Order 73, rule 10.

It was clear from the terms of the arbitration clause, which constituted a separate agreement, that the arbitrators were to apply the law of the arbitration agreement, and from all the surrounding circumstances that the proper law of the arbitration agreement was Swiss law and not the law of R'As al-Khaimah.

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Rakon had also objected that the proceedings had exceeded their jurisdiction but they had not so objected before the arbitrators and in all the circumstances they had not discharged their burden of proving excess of jurisdiction.

But once Mr Justice Bingham had granted DST's initial *ex parte* application to enforce the award, DST became judgment creditors of Rakon, albeit subject to a stay pending resolution of Rakon's application to set that order aside.

On the judge's approach, the first question had been whether Rakon had any assets within the jurisdiction, either when the injunction was first granted on July 2, 1986, when it was varied on July 23 or when it was affirmed on August 8. The only asset which had ever been suggested was the trading debt owed by Shell.

There was no doubt that Shell was indebted to Rakon but since that debt was due to be paid in New York the issue remained whether that indebtedness constituted an asset within the jurisdiction.

The point fell to be decided as a matter of the English law governing conflicts of law and was bound up with the allied question whether the debt could be taken in execution of an English judgment in favour of DST by garnishment or the appointment of a receiver.

The purpose of the injunction was concerned, the only relevant jurisdictional requirements were that the garnishee should be within the jurisdiction and that the subject matter should be a debt due or accruing due to the judgment creditor from the garnishee: see Order 49, rule 1(i).

Garnishment was a process recognized internationally and most nations agreed that the validity and effect of an attachment of a debt were governed by the *lex situs* of the debt, and that debts generally were situate in the country where they were

properly recoverable or could be enforced.

If, per se, the thought, Shell were to default upon their obligation to pay Rakon for the oil they had bought and received, their liability could certainly be enforced in England and possibly only in England.

There was no suggestion that it could be enforced in New York. It followed that, but for the stay of execution, the debt could have been the subject of a garnishee order in England and that if the order were made absolute and payment were made to DST thereunder, the indebtedness of Shell would be discharged for all purposes.

Shell had argued that that approach was too legalistic and that the court should not interfere with Shell's private affairs of their commercial obligations. But the relationship between Shell and Rakon was no different from that between an English bank and a foreign defendant in the normal *Mareva* situation.

The case for imposing an injunction had been much stronger than Mr Justice Bingham had thought, because DST were actual and not merely potential judgment creditors. The purpose of the injunction was thus to maintain the status quo during the period covered by the stay of execution and not to preserve assets against the probability that DST might at some later date be able to establish its claim, which was the ordinary *Mareva* situation.

Accordingly, the appeal from Mr Justice Bingham should also be dismissed. Lord Justice Woolf and Lord Justice Russell agreed.

Solicitors: William A. Crump & Son; Middleton Potts & Co; Herbert Smith & Co.

Architect in breach of costs duty

Nye Saunders & Partner (a firm) v Bristow

Before Lord Justice Stephen Brown, Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Ralph Gibson [Judgment April 8]

An architect who provided his client with an approximate estimate of costs for a building project without disclosing the risk of inflation upon the proposed costs was in breach of his professional duty.

Accordingly, when the client was forced to abandon the project on learning that its true costs, with inflation, was substantially more than he could afford, the architect was not entitled to recover his fees for work he had already done before the project was cancelled.

QC and Mr Christopher Beaumont for the plaintiffs; Mr Richard Farnborough, QC, for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE STEPHEN BROWN said that Mr Nye, a senior partner in the plaintiff firm of architects was asked by the defendant to give an approximate estimate of the costs of renovation and reconstruction works on his mansion, a grade 2 listed building.

The plaintiff, after consulting a quantity surveyor sent the defendant an approximate estimate of £238,000 which contained no reference to inflation. He was then engaged as architect for the project and did some preparatory work for it.

Seven months later, the defendant was given an increased approximate estimate of £440,000 which, for the first time, specifically included inflation.

The defendant was shocked at the increase and cancelled the project. It was in issue whether the plaintiff was en-

titled to be paid fees for work done up to the termination of his contract.

There was no criticism of the quality of Mr Nye's work. The defendant had refused to pay Mr Nye's fees because he had been grossly misled.

The official referee heard the evidence of the expert witnesses and he found that "there was no practice accepted as proper by a responsible body of architects in February 1974, that no warning as to inflation need be given when providing an approximation of the costs of the current outline proposals".

In his Lordship's judgment the official referee was entitled to come to that finding and to conclude that the plaintiff's failure to warn his client about inflation constituted a breach of his duty to take due care.

The judge's finding of negligence on the part of the plaintiff was proper on the facts and could not be upset.

Solicitors: Triggs Turner & Co; Gifford, Tittmus, Sainer & Webb.

Rectifying register

In re Data Express Ltd

Where a company's register of members had been lost it was proper to come to the court for an order pursuant to section 359 of the Companies Act 1985 that the new register of members which was blank be rectified by inserting the names of the shareholders, thereby establishing title to the shares. Mr Justice Vinelott said in the Chancery Division on April 7.

MR JUSTICE VINELOTT said that it appeared that the company register had been inadvertently destroyed by the company's secretary and irretrievably lost. It was surprising that some such situation had not arisen before.

The power of the court to rectify the register in section 359 clearly comprised this situation and it was desirable that in such circumstances the power of the court should be sought.

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TEMPORARY BOOKINGS

MAYFAIR

1-1 MONTH

Personality, pose and confidence essential. 50/50 split of pay. 100/60, Plus audio.

ADVERTISING AGENCY

3-6 MONTHS

To assist in Recruitment. 100/60, Plus audio.

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BUSY BEES

We are a busy activity. Our clients are looking for a temporary secretary. You should be a graduate with a degree in Marketing or a related subject. You should be a team player and have a good understanding of the marketing process. You should be able to work independently and have a good understanding of the marketing process. You should be able to work independently and have a good understanding of the marketing process.

100/60, Plus audio.

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ADMIN PA-TELEVISION

Combine the duties of a secretary with those of a television producer. You should be a graduate with a degree in Marketing or a related subject. You should be a team player and have a good understanding of the marketing process. You should be able to work independently and have a good understanding of the marketing process. You should be able to work independently and have a good understanding of the marketing process.

100/60, Plus audio.

